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Entertainment

Nickelback tops Juno Award list
pg 28

Obama softens U.S. trade stance

MESSAGE U.S. President Barack Obama has signalled a possible truce in a looming trade war with Canada and other nations, warning that Washington's economic stimulus package must not contain protectionist language.

"I agree that we can't send a protectionist message," Obama said in an interview with Fox News yesterday.

"I want to see what kind of language ... we can work on this issue. I think it would be a mistake, though, at a time when worldwide trade is declining, for us to start sending a message that somehow we're just looking after ourselves and not concerned with world trade," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leslieville fire **Helping hands**

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A survivor of yesterday's fire at a townhouse complex at Queen Street East near Greenwood Avenue is helped from the site by a firefighter and local resident. The fire claimed the life of a woman and displaced many. **Story, page 3.**

McGuinty won't rule out 'Rae Days'

Battered by a worldwide financial meltdown, Premier Dalton McGuinty is warning that Ontario desperately needs a revamped economic "foundation" to emerge from the recession.

Insisting he is not trying to "frighten" people, McGuinty stressed government alone could not tackle the daunting challenges facing the province and he pointedly refused to rule out the return of unpaid "Rae Days" for civil servants.

Asked three times during a 23-minute interview with the Toronto Star yesterday whether he was considering the mandatory "holidays" that former NDP premier Bob Rae imposed on public sector employees as a cost-saving measure, the premier left the door wide open.

"I'll leave that to Dwight. Obviously, we have some real challenges," he said, referring to Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, who is tabling the province's budget in late February or early March with an expected deficit of between $5 billion and $10 billion. "I'm not saying it's going to be easy to square this circle."

Queried as to how his government would lead by example in times of austerity, McGuinty, who was visibly tired, warned "this recession is different than the other ones."

"We can't just do what we've done in the past, which is 'a little nip here, a little tuck there, this thing's going to blow over and all we need to do is grapple with a deficit and the recession.' We can't just do that. We have to strengthen this economy," the premier said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Social contract

• In 1993, Rae foisted a "social contract" upon hundreds of thousands of unionized public sector workers — from teachers to nurses to bureaucrats — forcing them to take 12 days of unpaid leave. While unions and even many New Democrats attacked him at the time, the controversial move preserved social services and protected jobs during a crippling recession.

Budget clears hurdle

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's prescription for lifting Canada out of recession — a $40-billion stimulus package — has passed a key political test, prolonging the life of his minority government.

The budget passed last night in a 211-91 vote, thanks to the grudging support of the Liberals, who backed the Conservatives against the opposition of New Democrats and Bloc Québécois.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff was reluctant to force an election in the face of the economic downturn. Instead, he has warned that the Conservatives are on "probation" and is demanding regular progress reports of the stimulus package.

But six Liberal MPs from Newfoundland and Labrador broke ranks with their party and opposed the budget, charging it short-changes their province by more than $1 billion.

Their mini-revolt posed the first test to Ignatieff's fledgling leadership. However, before the vote, Ignatieff struck a compromise, saying he would permit the MPs a "one-time" show of protest after four vowed to oppose it anyway.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITORIAL CARTOON, PAGE 7

Victory

• The budget's passage marks a victory for the Conservatives, who, in December, were staring at defeat at the hands of a united opposition. The budget serves up income tax cuts, tax credits for home renovations, increased jobless benefits and cash for urban reconstruction.

Metro Drive pg 11

Winging it with flying vehicles

Travel pg 15

Paris can be magical

Sports pg 9

McCabe haunts Leafs

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BEAUTY *at the Bay*

Thief gets stuck in the snow
A thief who robbed the home of a 92-year-old woman and then jumped into his truck to make a getaway ended up getting stuck in the snow and nabbed by police. George Platt, 39, of Toronto, is charged with several offenses, including break and enter. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Obama-maniacs out of luck

Canuck fans of Barack Obama appear to be out of luck. A group of Obama-maniacs from the Toronto area wants to bring four busloads of fans to a welcome rally in Ottawa when the U.S. president visits this month. But the government isn't allowing any group gatherings on Parliament Hill on Feb. 19 because of security concerns. Obama's schedule is pretty much all work and no play, including meetings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and opposition leaders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INDEX

Canada Pg 5
World Pg 6
Comment Pg 7
Business Pg 8
Sports Pg 9
Metro Drive Pg 11
Travel Pg 15
Workology Pg 25
Entertainment Pg 28
TV Listings Pg 31
Celebrity Buzz Pg 32
Take Five Pg 34

Tomorrow's Metro

Comments
Andrew Cohen offers up insight on political affairs in his column Home and Abroad

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blog Political Stripes claims Liberals were steamrolled on budget vote by Premier Danny Williams at **metronews.ca**

Video Michael Ignatieff blasts Stephen Harper over Newfoundland budget decision at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 7 1 2; **Ontario Pick 4** : 7 4 9 2; **Encore:** 0013664; **Daily Keno:** 5, 7, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 37, 42, 43, 46, 56, 61, 63, 64, 67, 69. These results are not official.

City close to garbage goals

In a testament to all those blue and green bins that line Toronto streets on garbage day, the city has cut the number of Michigan-bound trash loads by half in the past five years.

Some 70 tractor-trailer loads of the stuff left over after those diversion programs do their job still go to Michigan each day, says Geoff Rathbone, general manager of solid waste.

That's a lot — but half the 140 trucks that headed down Highway 401 daily in 2003. And it represents progress on the way to eliminating Michigan shipments altogether by the end of 2010.

In large measure, it's proof of the diligence of thousands of Toronto homeowners who willingly separate their garbage each week.

"Maybe 60 per cent of the decrease is due to waste diversion," said Rathbone, who released the figures yesterday to the public works committee.

Some of the material that used to go to Michigan is now being diverted to the Green Lane dump near St. Thomas that the city bought three years ago.

If Toronto hits its target of diverting 70 per cent of its solid waste from the dump by the end of next year, the Green Lane landfill is expected to last until 2034.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

History of shipping

- Toronto started shipping to Michigan in 1998, with only 30 truckloads a day. The number ballooned in 2003 after the Keele Valley landfill closed, and Michigan become Toronto's principal destination for solid waste.

News in brief

LEAD TEST Toronto residents anxious to get their water tested for lead can now pick up free testing kits to speed up the process. Residents can pick up and drop off a kit themselves at any of six Toronto public health offices. Lab staff will retrieve the samples from there.

HOSPITAL While delivering a cheque for $14.3 million to the Brampton Civic Hospital, Health Minister David Caplan warned the province will not come to the rescue of other cash-strapped hospitals struggling to balance budgets. Caplan yesterday announced the funding increase for Brampton to help handle an increase in surgery volume.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lotto 6/49 Last of the big winners

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Roger Booker of Pickering and his wife, Kim, do their happy dance with children Cole and Shane as they pick up their winning Lotto 6/49 ticket worth $14,817,318. The prize was the last from the $44.4 million lottery jackpot on Jan 24.

Fire brings heartbreak and heroism

TODDLER Within moments yesterday, an east-end townhouse was the scene of triumphant escape and heartbreaking tragedy.

Daniela Ocaranza scrambled to safety with her 12-year-old son, crawling beneath a cloud of black smoke.

Her sister — unable to breathe and trapped by rising flames — was forced to toss her 21-month-old daughter from a second-storey window to a quick-thinking neighbour below.

That neighbour, Werner Schmidt, who had been unable to rescue his wife trapped inside the burning building, felt saving the child was the only thing he could do.

"I said, 'Throw the baby,' and I caught the baby, because I knew I couldn't do anything for my wife (Louise)," he told CTV.

Louise Schmidt succumbed to her injuries at the scene of the Queen and Greenwood fire. Firefighters arrived shortly after 11:15 a.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Affected

- A total of five homes were affected by the fire, forcing 17 people to find shelter elsewhere.

TORONTO HYDRO PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Toronto Hydro has further accelerated its contact voltage program, which already involves nightly mobile voltage sweeps and the repair of equipment and sidewalk handwells.

This additional action is being taken after we received a report that some children received a minor shock on January 29, Toronto Hydro immediately suspended normal operations and has now assigned all non-emergency crews to its contact voltage program. More than 600 tradespersons and support staff are dedicated to this effort.

Mobile voltage detection sweeps of neighbourhoods will continue. The inspections and remediation will radiate from the downtown core out to all neighbourhoods. This will ensure that the oldest equipment is inspected first. We expect to have the older parts of Toronto completed by the end of February.

For your personal safety we ask that you keep away from work sites. Toronto Hydro crews are working on live equipment.

Toronto Hydro urges anyone who is concerned about contact voltage in their neighbourhood to stay clear of the area and immediately call our **dedicated hotline at 416-222-3773**.

For more information, please visit **www.torontohydro.com/voltageinspection**

toronto hydro electric system

The figure and star is a trademark of Toronto Hydro Corporation used under licence.

Teen stabbed in eye during robbery

A teenager was stabbed in the eye and another was robbed and assaulted outside a North York community centre Monday night. The two victims, aged 18 and 19, were getting into their car outside the Cummer Park Community Centre on Leslie Street near Steeles Avenue when they were attacked. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Group slams Tamil Tigers

Intimidation and extortion continues in Toronto's Sri Lankan community despite a government ban on fundraising for the Tamil Tigers, an impassioned group of Sri Lankan Canadians said yesterday.

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lenin Benedict, left, and Hasaka Ratnamalala from a GTA Sri Lankan group that opposes the Tamil Tigers and supports the Sri Lankan government's efforts to eradicate them held a press conference yesterday to air the views of the "silent majority." The Sri Lankan United National Association says only now, with the Tigers all but destroyed, can its members speak without fear of retaliation here.

"There is homegrown terrorism here against people. The collection of money is still going on," said Hasaka Rathnamalala of the Sri Lankan United National Association of Canada, which called a news conference to counter claims of Tamil genocide made last week during a massive demonstration in downtown Toronto.

"The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) has killed more Tamil people than anyone else," he said. "Sri Lankans are suffering. The only way to stop it is to finish the LTTE. They created the war."

Although Tamils, who are Hindu, are the minority in Sri Lanka to the Sinhalese majority, they form the majority of the 200,000-strong Sri Lankan community in Greater Toronto.

The 25-year war in Sri Lanka hit a new and bloodier stage last week as troops of the Sinhalese Buddhist-dominated government cornered the Tigers in the northeast, the stronghold of the Tigers who have been fighting for a separate country.

The group showed a video shot outside Kaveri Supermarket in Mississauga last Nov. 27, a day the Tamil community designates as the annual Maaveerar Remembrance Day to honour "fallen freedom fighters" and which Rathnamalala says glorifies suicide bombers.

His organization helped lobby the Conservative government last year to ban the World Tamil Movement, a Canadian group that is alleged to raise money for the Tigers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Repair campaign for handwells underway

ELECTROCUTION How many Toronto Hydro workers does it take to inspect a handwell? Two: One to do most of the work, and another to be there in case the first gets electrocuted. Toronto Hydro's handwell inspection and repair campaign was in full swing yesterday, when crews got to work checking each of the city's 15,000 handwells for faulty wiring. Several GTA residents, including a group of 10- and 11-year-old students, as well as a number of dogs, two of which died, have been zapped by the handwells since November.

A handwell gets replaced.

The handwells — which sit in the ground and provide power to street lights, TTC shelters and other street fixtures — are covered by metal plates that can become electrified when the wiring below malfunctions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shining a light on Islam's science

LEARNING Their discoveries, made centuries ago at the height of Islamic civilization, have largely been overlooked. Their legacy, which laid the foundation for scientists and civilizations that followed, has rarely been appreciated by the masses — until now.

A new interactive exhibit, Sultans of Science: 1,000 years of Knowledge Rediscovered, opening tomorrow at the Ontario Science Centre, aims to educate the public on scientific history they were never taught in the classroom.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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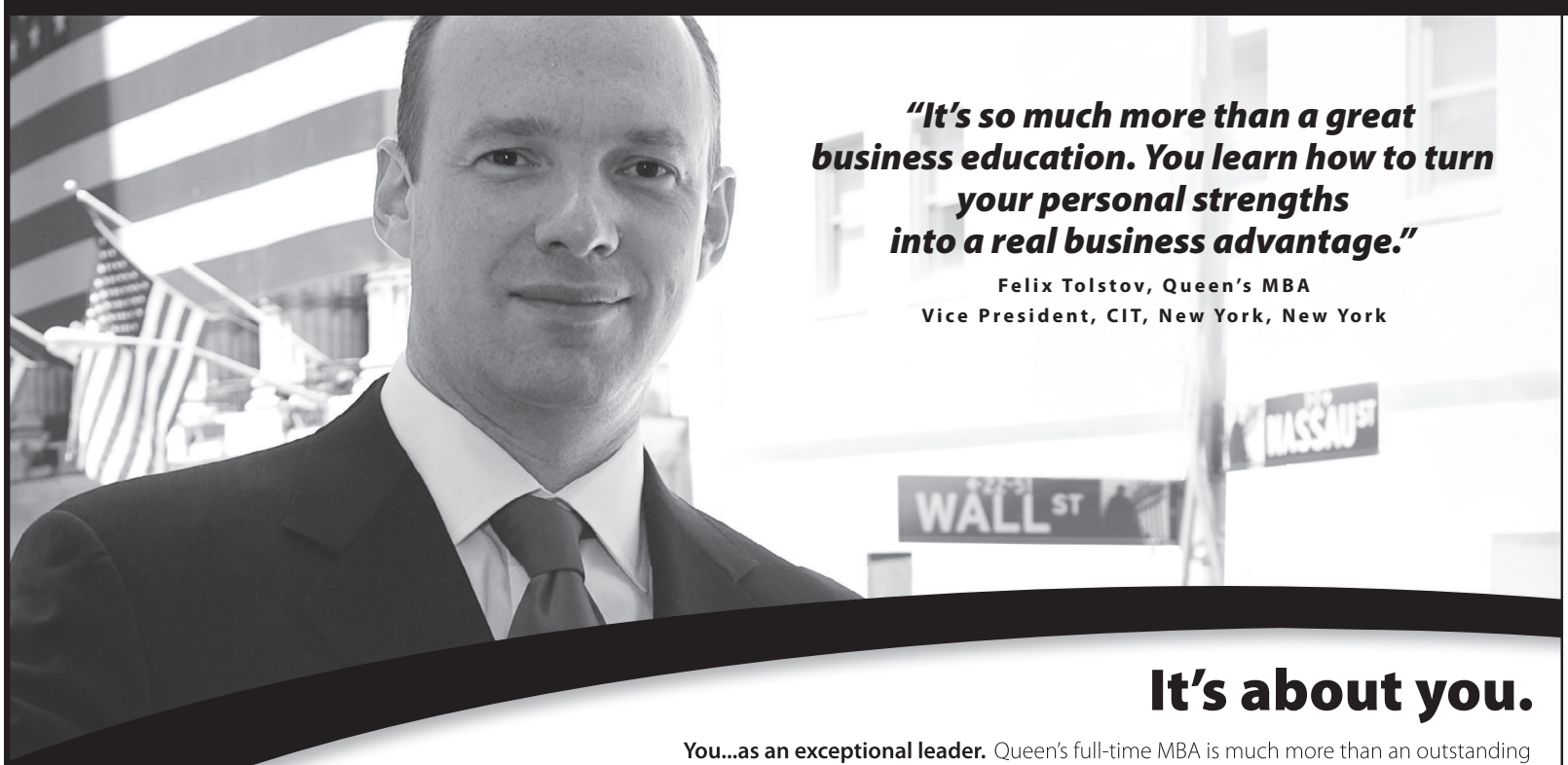

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Claims filed over tainted pet food
About 1,600 Canadians have filed claims in a $24-million settlement with Menu Foods over tainted pet food from March 2007, a lawyer said yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

McGuinty in panic mode: Hampton

Premier Dalton McGuinty's plan to slash government regulations up to 35 per cent is a panic-driven flip-flop driven by his poor handling of the slumping economy, NDP Leader Howard Hampton charges.

Just a few years ago, McGuinty was railing against cuts in regulations by the previous Progressive Conservative government, characterizing them as dangerous, Hampton said after the Toronto Star revealed the government's secret plan to cut regulations to help spur job creation.

"This is, again, Dalton McGuinty, who will say one thing one day in order to get people to vote for him and another thing completely opposite the next day," Hampton said.

The premier said in a speech to the Canadian Club yesterday that too much red tape is a "brake on growth" and it's time for government to become "fast and friendly" with business.

Groups like the Canadian Federation of Independent Business have been seeking reductions in red tape to free owners from paperwork to run their businesses.

"British Columbia went down this road without any of the 'sky is falling' stuff happening," the federation's Satinder Chera said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Warning

- The Ontario Federation of Labour has warned that the government plan to cut regulations by 25 to 35 per cent by 2011 seems arbitrary and could put lives at risk.

Thousands sign Khadr petition

SUPPORT Amnesty International Canada plans to release petitions today bearing the names of thousands of people supporting the return of Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr to Canada.

The petitions come on the heels of a letter released yesterday by the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations seeking Khadr's repatriation. It is signed by 185 groups and individuals, including community leaders, academics, human-rights advocates and civil liberties organizations. Khadr, a Canadian charged in the death of a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan, is the only westerner still imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Afghan mission **Soldier mourned**

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

People show their support yesterday as the hearse carrying the casket of Canadian soldier Sapper Sean Greenfield drives past in Trenton, Ont. Greenfield was killed Jan. 31, when his armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

News in brief

OBITUARY Veteran CBC broadcaster Russ Germain, remembered as a grammar guru who maintained a zest for life and an infectious sense of humour behind his staid demeanour, succumbed to lung cancer in hospital Monday. He was 62.

SETTLEMENT Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk said yesterday he will pay $1 million US to settle with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, but he doesn't admit to any wrongdoing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Obama picks another Republican for his cabinet

U.S. President Barack Obama nominated Republican Senator Judd Gregg — the third Republican in the Democrat's cabinet — to be commerce secretary yesterday, a bipartisan gesture that Obama stressed was necessary with the economy in a virtual free fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Daschle pulls nomination

Faced with problems over back taxes and potential conflicts of interest, Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination yesterday to be U.S. President Barack Obama's health and human services secretary. Less than three hours earlier, another Obama nominee, Nancy Killefer, also withdrew from consideration to be the government's first chief performance officer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel bombs Gaza tunnels

Retaliation for rocket attack

Israeli warplanes bombed the Gaza-Egypt border yesterday, aiming for tunnels used by Gaza's Hamas rulers to smuggle in weapons and supplies after a Palestinian rocket hit a city in southern Israel.

A Grad rocket exploded yesterday morning in Ashkelon, an Israeli city of 122,000 people on the Mediterranean coast about 16 kilometres north of Gaza. The blast damaged vehicles and buildings, but no one was hurt.

It was the first time Gaza militants had fired a Grad since Israel's offensive ended Jan. 17. Other rockets fired have been smaller, homemade versions.

Israel hit back at nightfall. Warplanes blasted the 14-kilometre Gaza-Egypt border after warning residents to leave — alerts that have become routine preceding almost daily air strikes on the tunnels.

The Israeli military said the planes hit five tunnels, a rocket-launching site and a Hamas outpost. No casualties were reported.

Despite flare-ups, both sides have a clear interest in keeping a lid on violence. Israel has an election in a week and Hamas badly needs an accord that would reopen Gaza border crossings to relieve severe shortages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Freed **Colombian hostage returns**

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former hostage Alan Jara, right, the former governor of Meta, is hugged by his son, Alan Felipe, as his wife, Claudia Rujeles, looks on yesterday after Jara's release in Villavicencio, Colombia. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) had held Jara captive for more than seven years.

Patients flee after shells hit hospital

SRI LANKA Patients who could walk fled one of the last functioning hospitals in Sri Lanka's northern war zone yesterday after it was hit by artillery shells, while the Red Cross negotiated the evacuation of those severely wounded.

The military said it captured the Tamil Tigers' seventh and final airstrip yesterday.

However, they have not found the three or four aircraft that comprise the rebel air force.

The military says it is on the verge of destroying the Tamil Tigers, and ending their war for a separate homeland for the minority Tamil in the north and the east that started in 1983 and has cost more than 70,000 lives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Budgeting backwards

Stimulus lacks investment where most women work

NoBorders

Deborah Coyne
dmr.coyne@rogers.com

As the dust settles after the much-anticipated delivery of Budget 2009, one troubling feature is emerging: Despite the fact that women constitute 47.4 per cent — almost half — of the national workforce, the vast majority of the billions of stimulus dollars targeted for job creation favours men. And the margin is huge — whether in housing, construction, forestry, autos, or manufacturing.

But it's not just women who should be concerned: By failing to address the worst economic crisis in decades within a fair and equitable framework, the budget illustrates a serious lack of forward-thinking at a time when we need to restructure the Canadian economy around industries based on innovative technological advances and our vibrant service sectors — major employers of women.

Budget 2009 has been called everything from "historic" to "inadequate" to "excessive" to "the end of conservatism." It is none of these things. It is vintage Stephen Harper: A mishmash of mainly short-term job creation and credit-easing initiatives aimed at holding onto power and responding to the most basic expectations of frustrated Canadians who most certainly did not want an election or a repetition of the pre-Christmas hysterics.

To the extent the budget even considers the future, it does so through a rearview mirror: Short-sightedly subsidizing — rather than transforming – declining sectors like the auto industry; failing to adequately adapt employment insurance and other social security provisions to the current challenging environment; and concentrating the stimulus spending primarily on physical infrastructure, however important.

Yet our social infrastructure — underpinning our all-important service sector where the vast majority of women (and Canadians) work — requires just as much attention as our decaying physical infrastructure. At a minimum, significant new long-term public investment is required in scientific innovation and basic research, in education at all levels, in child care, geriatric care, community and social services. This will go far to support our most important national asset — our human capital — and ensure that we pull out of this crisis with a greener, more sustainable economy, and an educated, more productive workforce employed in 21st-century industries. Moreover, investing in women is smart economics according to participants at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, from Nike's chief executive, to the head of UNICEF, to Melinda Gates. This holds true as much for developed countries like Canada as it does for developing countries.

Let us hope the women of Canada, who represent not only half the workforce but also half of the electorate, remember the inadequacies of this budget and this government at the next election.

Deborah Coyne is a public policy consultant who blogs at canadianswithoutborders.blogspot.com. She also ran as a Liberal candidate in the 2006 federal election.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: What gets you through winter?

Denis Gorovoa
Age 23, Toronto
A: I'm from Russia, so I'm used to this kind of weather. Fortunately, the TTC service is pretty good so you don't have to wait too long in the cold.

Teressa (last name withheld)
Age 16, Toronto
A: I wear a lot of bundled layers: Mitts, hats, scarves, sweaters and boots.

Zafer Sami
Age 25, Toronto
A: It's very hard. You've got to bundle up because it's really hard to get around.

Abel Grrma
Age 26, Toronto
A: Waiting for a bus is the hardest thing. It takes so long to get to a station.

Vanessa Turner
Age 20, Halifax
A: Tomato soup and Chapstick. Good movies, too — to get away from school.

Sun-ae Oh
Age 28, Vancouver
A: I go snowboarding on Grouse Mountain or Whistler or catch a movie. There's not much to do in the city in the winter, only the summer.

Letters

Don't mar its beauty to save the planet

Re: April Lindgren's column: Wind farm would be another ugly mistake (Jan. 30)

April Lindgren's article demonstrates her understanding that saving the planet shouldn't entail marring its beauty.

Toronto Hydro admits it can't guarantee energy from a lakeshore wind farm would remain in Toronto to help keep our city green. As well, according to the 2007 Toronto Hydro financial statement, the wind turbine at Exhibition Place has run at 12 per cent of capacity since its inception. The Pickering wind turbine generating station's five-year average output is just 17 per cent of capacity.

To despoil one of Ontario's most scenic natural wonders for a cost-ineffective return shows an utter lack of respect for the environment and its human and animal inhabitants.

MICHAEL HAYWARD, TORONTO

Windmills over smokestacks

It astounds me to read and hear such nonsense from people, who apparently and, by all evidence, have absolutely no sense.

"Collection of ugly industrial clutter?" That will "haunt generations to come?" Apparently April Lindren has never travelled to Europe and seen windmill after windmill dotting the landscape and sending the message that something is being attempted to save Mother Earth. Do you honestly think they are so much more heinous to look at than the smokestacks dotting the skyline and spewing their black toxins into our city and water?

We must seek alternatives to gas and oil. Harnessing what already exists in nature is not monstrous, it's beautiful.

KAREN SCARLETT, TORONTO

Do as I say, not as I did

I find it rich that the NDP are acting so indignant that Michael Ignatieff is supporting the Conservative budget. It was, after all, its support for Harper in 2006 that led to the fall of the Martin government and the Conservatives' rise to power. Why is it wrong for Ignatieff to support the Conservatives now, but right for the NDP to support them then?

BRIAN APPEL, DARTMOUTH, N.S.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Lowe's and Ikea plan new store openings
Ikea and Lowe's are moving ahead with plans to boost their presence in Canada on hopes that a federal tax credit for home improvement projects will send shoppers rushing into their stores. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Honda cuts use of temps at Alliston

ASSEMBLY Honda is ending contracts early and not renewing them for hundreds of temporary employees at its sprawling operations in Alliston, northwest of Toronto, because of the auto industry's downturn, a spokesperson for Honda of Canada Manufacturing confirmed yesterday.

The company said in December that it wanted to reduce normal output by 37,000 vehicles before the end of March.

In terminating contracts early, Honda offered one week of pay for every lost week of work to a maximum of eight weeks.

Honda also notified summer students who had worked there before that it won't be able to offer employment this year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bank sees credit card loss rising to $800M

Amid fresh evidence cash-strapped Canadians are taking longer to pay off their credit cards, another major financial institution has moved to tighten up its lending practices.

Amex Bank of Canada said in a note to cardholders that the rates of interest on some American Express cards will rise between one and three percentage points to as much as 21.99 per cent, effective Feb. 11.

The move comes as a Bank of Canada report projects credit card losses could climb by as much as $800 million this year if present trends continue.

Canadians' love of credit cards means the value of all outstanding balances has climbed 40 per cent since 2004, said Pat Daley, a partner with Deloitte & Touche.

More than U.S.

- Canadians' debt-to-disposable income ratio, now at 130 per cent, exceeds U.S levels, noted Pat Daley, a partner with Deloitte & Touche, quoting figures published by the Bank of Canada.

Based on interviews with executives representing half the outstanding credit card balances in Canada in December, Deloitte & Touche concluded write-offs were rising by one per cent, or $800 million on an annualized basis.

"As recently as October-November they had started to see a change in behaviour in the way Canadians were paying off credit card debt. We found an increase in delinquencies. That's when a customer misses a payment after a certain point of time. And delinquencies can turn into write-offs," Daley explained.

Like other card issuers, including Canadian Tire and TD Bank, which have tightened their lending practices, Amex Bank explained its rate hike by saying the costs of borrowing have increased "substantially" in recent months.

It also said these changes are "in line with the market" and the majority of its cardholders pay their balance in full on time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GM could pull out of Canada: Union

SALES A nearly 47 per cent drop in sales at General Motors last month left auto sales in Canada at their lowest level in 20 years.

Yesterday's gloomy sales numbers came as a union official suggested that GM could close its operations in Canada if workers didn't accept concessions soon.

"Canada has clearly joined the global automotive recession." Industry watcher Dennis DesRosiers

Industry-wide, sales and leases of new cars and trucks tumbled 26,000, or 25.3 per cent, to 76,850 in January compared with the same month last year, according to manufacturers.

"Canada has clearly joined the global automotive recession and is bringing a lot of companies with it," said industry watcher Dennis DesRosiers.

Sales at GM plunged more than 12,000 vehicles, or 46.6 per cent, to 14,254 last month.

Chris Buckley, president of Canadian Auto Workers Local 222 in Oshawa, said the reeling automaker could close a major car plant in the city if the union didn't help GM's North American restructuring effort.

But Premier Dalton McGuinty suggested he doesn't believe GM would pull up stakes in Ontario because of recent investments, productivity and quality.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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In brief

JOB LOSSES Economists say Canada likely lost tens of thousands more jobs last month as firms cut back. The consensus forecast of another month of massive job losses in the range of 40,000 for January follows large contractions the previous two months. A survey of 246 companies by the Towers Perrin consulting firm found that 18 per cent of Canadian employers were planning layoffs, hiring freezes and salary freezes. Only seven per cent said they have made significant reductions in staff to date. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Super Bowl ratings up in U.S., down in Canada
Nielsen Media Research said 98.7 million Americans, on average, were watching Pittsburgh's 27-23 Super Bowl victory Sunday night. That beats the 97.5 million who watched the 2008 game. In Canada, CTV carried the game and attracted an average audience of 3.6 million viewers, which was down from the 4.167 million who tuned in for the 2008 game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Phelps pot charge possible

U.S. Olympic swimming hero Michael Phelps could face criminal charges as part of the fallout from a November photograph showing him smoking from a marijuana pipe at a University of South Carolina house party. A spokesman for Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, known for his tough stance on drugs, said yesterday the department was investigating. Phelps apologized for his actions Monday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Tillman charged with sex assault

CFL Saskatchewan Roughriders general manager Eric Tillman has been put on leave while he faces a charge of sexual assault. Saskatchewan police say their charge against Tillman stems from an alleged encounter with a 16-year-old girl last summer in Regina. Tillman, 51, was arrested Jan. 27. Tillman had previously served as GM of the B.C. Lions and Toronto Argonauts. He also worked as a television analyst with TSN and Rogers Sportsnet.

Tillman

Lindros out as ombudsman

NHL The NHL Players' Association refused to say why publicly, but its high-profile ombudsman is no longer in office. Eric Lindros "has resigned" from his position, an NHLPA release said yesterday. Sources told Metro last month that some NHLPA executives were unhappy with Lindros.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

MLS Toronto FC sent defender Todd Dunivant to the L.A. Galaxy yesterday in exchange for allocation money. Dunivant appeared in 27 games for TFC after being acquired in a trade with the New York Red Bulls in June 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Florida 4 **TORONTO** 3 (OT)
Los Angeles 1 Ottawa 0
Montreal 4 Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Islanders 3 Tampa Bay 1
St. Louis 4 Columbus 2
Washington 5 New Jersey 2
Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers
Phoenix at Nashville
Calgary at Dallas
Chicago at Edmonton
Carolina at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland 101 **TORONTO** 83
Boston 100 Philadelphia 99
Minnesota 116 Indiana 111
Milwaukee at New Jersey
Chicago at Houston
San Antonio at Denver

Leafs blow it; Raptors never really in it

NHL RESULT

Panthers 4 Leafs 3 (OT)

VS

Bryan McCabe came back to haunt his former team, scoring 3:30 into overtime as the Florida Panthers rallied to beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3.

McCabe raced up the left wing and had his slapshot trickle through Vesa Toskala's arm for his 10th goal of the season. Gregory Campbell, Stephen Weiss and Cory Stillman also scored for Florida, which trailed 3-1 heading into the final period. The Maple Leafs appeared on their way to a three-game winning streak until the final minute of the third period. Stillman tied the score 3-3 with 52.7 seconds to play when he swooped in and lifted a rebound over Toskala on a power play. Until that point, Toronto had led most of the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bryan McCabe reacts to Cory Stillman's game-tying goal.

NBA RESULT

Raptors 83 Cavaliers 101

VS

LeBron James scored 33 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers remained flawless on their own court, beating the Toronto Raptors last night for their 23rd straight home victory.

Chris Bosh scored 29 and Jermaine O'Neal 20 to pace Toronto. Trailing by 19 at halftime and showing little fight, the Raptors regrouped and outscored the Cavaliers 26-15 in the third quarter.

Cleveland shot just 4-of-18 in the third, but midway through the fourth James decided to put Toronto away. Nearly everything dropped for James, who will now head to New York's Madison Square Garden tonight and possibly take aim at Kobe Bryant's scoring record there. Bryant scored 61 Monday against the Knicks.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LBJ 12K

- LeBron James became the youngest player in NBA history to reach the 12,000-point plateau last night.

MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James grabs a rebound against Chris Bosh.

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Canada Day kickoff for CFL

The CFL will kick off the 2009 season on July 1 with a pair of games, the league announced in releasing its season schedule yesterday. The Hamilton Tiger-Cats host the Argonauts, followed by a Grey Cup rematch between the Calgary Stampeders and Montreal Alouettes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

An important change in how organ and tissue donation decisions are registered in Ontario.

Have you registered a decision of "No" or "Undecided" regarding organ and tissue donation?

Then, you should know that, Ontario has changed the way donation decisions are recorded. Now, only a "Yes" to organ and tissue donation will be collected and stored in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) database. At the appropriate time, this information will be accessed by the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN), Ontario's provincial organ donation agency.

If you have previously registered "NO" or "UNDECIDED", this decision will no longer be used or disclosed to TGLN, as of July 1, 2009.

Therefore, it is important that you tell your family or loved ones of your decision, to ensure that your wishes are properly conveyed to your health care team at the relevant time.

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Ontario

Odds not in the Cards next year

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Only a remarkable touchdown catch with 35 seconds remaining prevented them from winning the Super Bowl Sunday, but the Arizona Cardinals still haven't impressed the oddsmakers.

In fact, 17 NFL teams are favoured ahead of the Cards for next season's championship.

The 2010 Super Bowl odds, released yesterday, list the Cards as 30-to-1 long shots. The New England Patriots, at 8-to-1, are favoured to prevail, followed by the Dallas Cowboys, at 9-to-1. Then come the new champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and their Super Bowl-winning predecessors, the New York Giants — both at 10-to-1.

They're followed by the Indianapolis Colts and San Diego Chargers (12-to-1), Baltimore Ravens (14-to-1), Tennessee Titans (16-to-1), Carolina Panthers and Philadelphia Eagles (18-to-1), New Orleans Saints (20-to-1), and the Atlanta Falcons, Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings, Denver Broncos, Jacksonville Jaguars and New York Jets (all at 25-to-1).

• The Cards may command more respect if the oddsmakers were sure 37-year-old quarterback Kurt Warner would re-sign with them. He's a free agent, hmming and hawing about returning to Arizona, but wife Brenda Warner has publicly encouraged him to retire to devote himself to their seven children and strong Christian faith ... NBC showed Brenda four times during Sunday's broadcast, incidentally, so you won the prop bet if you wagered on over 3.5 ... Santonio Holmes, who made the aforementioned TD catch (in triple coverage) for the Steelers' last-minute triumph and was chosen the game's MVP, received a new Cadillac, although financially troubled General Motors asked the NFL to refrain from publicizing the gift ... Holmes needs to brush up on his football lore. Twice, he referred to the Super Bowl trophy, named after legendary NFL coach Vince Lombardi, as the "Dicky Lombardi" trophy.

• We reported here in December that Eric Lindros' days as ombudsman of the NHLPA were numbered because of complaints about his behaviour and his work (or lack of same) — and, yesterday, the players' association officially announced his departure as "a resignation" ... There's trouble, too, in Vancouver — infighting, finger-pointing, second-guessing (like, why sign Mats Sundin for zillions?) — and don't be surprised if Canucks coach Alain Vigneault soon becomes the fall guy, just as Craig Hartsburg was when fired by Ottawa Monday ... Puzzling me equally these days: Bryan Murray staying on as Senators general manager while good hockey men (John Muckler, John Paddock, Hartsburg) are turned into scapegoats, Craig MacTavish sticking around as coach of the underachieving Edmonton Oilers, and the Toronto Argonauts hiring a bunch of new coaches with virtually no CFL experience.

Stern appearance

• Brian McNamee, the ex-trainer who testified he injected Roger Clemens with steroids and claimed in Joe Torre's new book that the entire former pitching staff of the Blue Jays used amphetamines, will appear next Monday on The Howard Stern Show.

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Metro Drive

The puppy's here

Auto dealers and media experts have joined forces to launch a new used-car website, autohound.ca. The site focuses exclusively on pre-owned vehicle buyers, and includes video tours and pictures of vehicles, easier search tools, warranty information and condition reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ready to take off

Dream of flying cars? They may soon come true

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

For years inventors have been looking for a way to get cars in the air.

Recently, the Parajet Skycar made its maiden voyage from London to Timbuktu, and its inventors are claiming that it's the first flying car to take to the road — and the air.

Hailed as the first two-seater, high-performance, road legal, bio-fuelled flying car, the Skycar is really an off-road buggy with a "wing" that turns it into a glider. Still, apparently it can reach 0-100kph in 4.5 seconds, and in "fly mode" gets up to 110km/h at an altitude of 3,000 feet, so it will be indispensable for hopping over the Sahara. This is only a prototype but you can still buy a slice of the future from Parajet — they also sell personal jet packs. (parajet.com)

The Parajet Skycar can achieve speeds up to 180 km/h.

Really what you want a flying car to be is a roadworthy contraption that unfurls like a Transformer to become an aircraft that takes off from tiny local airports. Moller International has been trying to get their skycar off the ground for years (moller.com). They're still testing their 8-engine "vertical takeoff and landing vehicle" (VTOL), the M400, which looks like a folding light aircraft.

Moller claims the car can take off from just 10 metres squared and cover more than 1,200 km. Still at prototype stage, they hope to launch later this year.

The Terrafugia Transition fills up with gas. Once loaded, it can fly at a height of 1,700 feet.

Up to speed

- **Parajet Skycar**
180 km/h, 15,000 ft
- **Moller M400**
579 km/h, 36,000 ft
- **Terrafugia**
185 km/h, 1,700 ft
- **Pal-V**
180 km/h, 4,000 ft

The three-wheel Pal-V — personal air and land vehicle — is a cross between a motorbike, gyrocopter and car (pal-v.com), set to launch in 2011.

Meanwhile, the wings of the two-seater Terrafugia Transition Roadable Aircraft take just 30 seconds to fold up, allowing it to be driven like a car. You'll need a Sport Pilot licence as well as your driver's licence for this drivable plane.

It's still being tested but expect to pay $194,000 US to be one of the first to take delivery in 2010. (terrafugia.com)

Porsche to launch new 911 GT3

DEBUT Porsche is gearing up for the launch of its "most powerful, fastest and most refined 911 GT3 ever" at the Geneva Motor Show next month.

The 2010 911 GT3 has an increased engine capacity to 3.8 litres and the naturally-aspirated six-cylinder power unit develops 435 bhp, up 20 bhp over its predecessor.

The boxer engine also offers a significant increase in torque at medium engine speeds, which is particularly significant in everyday motoring.

Performance is accordingly improved; the new GT3 accelerates to 100 km/h in 4.1 seconds and reaches 160 km/h in just 8.2 seconds. Top track speed is 312 km/h.

The car's driving dynamics are also significantly improved; the new GT3 offers even better grip and stability.

Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) has enabled Porsche's engineers to make the springs and anti-roll bars stiffer, thus ensuring even more precise handling in sport mode, while retaining appropriate roll comfort suitable for everyday use in normal mode.

The 2010 Porsche 911 GT3 goes on sale in Canadian dealerships in October. Pricing starts at $138,100.

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2008 Saturn VUE® XR model shown

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2009 Saturn AURA® XR model shown

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The 2009 Chevy Aveo5.

Economical choice

Frugal Chevy Aveo5 doesn't skimp out on style

JIM KERR
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Aveo (sedan) and Aveo5 (five-door hatchback) have a new exterior design, with swoopy body lines cutting across the body. I prefer the hatchback with its squared off back end and larger cargo space. Compact outside, with only a 3,938 mm overall length, there is good room inside for four large adults and cargo. The 60/40 split rear seat folds and tumbles forward to provide 1190 litres of cargo room, which is practical and useful.

Outside, the new front end shows the Chevy family resemblance similar to the new Malibu, with a smaller grille above the bumper and a large air intake below the bumper. Large lights front and rear stand out on the Aveo5 and the front fog lights add a sporty touch. The small grilles on the front fenders just in front of the doors look like an afterthought but seem to be the "in thing" with many new vehicles.

Inside, the two-tone cloth seats look nice and fit me well. The same cloth is used as inserts on the door panels and it is a nice touch in a price range where you would expect all plastic.

The interior styling is new, with bright trim on the doors, dash and steering wheel that complement each other. The round gauges are large and easy to read, and our car came with air conditioning and an optional automatic transmission. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard equipment. Above the driver's door, there is a spring-loaded case for handy access to those sunglasses.

The Aveo5 is available in LS and LT trim. We tested the upper LT trim level. The corporate GM radio fits nicely into the dash and our car had optional XM satellite radio as well as GM's OnStar (standard on LT models). Other new features include variable intermittent wipers and oil life monitoring system, so you can save some maintenance money by getting oil changes only when needed.

The seating position is good for even a tall driver and visibility is good in all directions. The car's small size makes it easy to slip into tight parking spots. The steering is light and responsive and the low 1,160 kg weight of the car helps with the handling. Fifteen-inch tires are optional, as are alloy wheels, but our car came with 14-inch tires and steel wheels with hubcaps to keep costs down. The security package adds $960 to the price bit it is worth it as it includes ABS brakes and seat-mounted side impact air bags.

An all new 1.6 litre Ecotec four cylinder engine powers the '09 Aveo models. With variable valve timing, the engine puts out 105 horsepower. This number isn't large, but it moves the Aveo5 smartly away from a stop or when passing on the highway. You don't need as much horsepower if you can keep the weight down. Fuel economy is also excellent, with up to a 10 per cent improvement from last year's model. It is now rated at 5.8 L/100 km on the highway. My experience with the car is that it will save a lot on fuel around town too.

You can dress the Aveo5 up with options such as rear spoiler or sunroof, or you can stay with the base model for minimum cost. The base MSRP for the Aveo5 is $13,770. That makes for very economical transportation and it has a three-year warranty, so you can say goodbye to costly repairs.

2009 Chevrolet Aveo5

Type: Compact hatchback
Price: from $13,770
Engine: 1.6 litre DOHC I-4
HP: 106 at 6400 rpm
Torque: 105 lb.ft. at 3600 rpm

Highlights

- Good value for money
- Improved fuel economy
- Compact but roomy design

Inside, the Aveo5 sports new styling, with bright trim on the doors, dash and steering wheel that complement each other.

Car show cure for winter blues

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz
Veteran auto journalist

Anybody have any recipes for groundhog stew? Ground hog chicken fingers maybe?

It's not that I have a hankering for rodent meat. It's just that somebody should pay for six more weeks of winter.

And it was Wiarton Willie that scrambled out of his hole this Monday — Groundhog Day — saw his shadow, and therefore condemned the lot of us to schlep to the corner store once more, to drag back yet another 15-kilo bag of rock salt.

It's been a tough winter, and even a tender winter is tough on people who like to hear the squeal of rubber on pavement. So that's why I am so looking forward to the big car show in Toronto, which kicks off its 10-day run this month on Friday the 13th.

It's a chance to recharge the auto enthusiast batteries, and to get knocked into a better sate of mind — like anticipation, wonderment, or even something delusionary, as in, "I will get one of those before I die."

I dare anybody to think bad thoughts when you're looking at shiny metal objects, like the new BMW Z4, or the new Infiniti G37 Convertible, or the new Audi R8 V10, or the new Jaguar XFR, all of which will be at the Toronto show.

If your tastes run more toward the classic, you could check out the Cruise Nationals (which will feature winning rides from regional cruise shows), and the Corvette display, which the show people are calling, "the most complete historical record of Corvette production seen at any auto show ever."

But this is a new-car show, with virtually every automaker represented, and, owing to the state of flux in the industry right now, there is an unprecedented array of various technological directions on display. From pure electric cars (Zenn, Subaru G4e, Mitsubishi MiEV, Chrysler Town & Country EV), to hybrid cars (the new Totota Prius, new Lexus H250, new Honda Insight, and the BMW 7 Series Active-Hybrid concept), to cool "conventional" cars (Nissan Cube, Nissan NV 2500 Concept, Ford Fiesta, Cadillac SRX), to fuel-cell cars (the sexy Honda FC Sport Concept).

So, to summarize, even if you're not in the market any time soon, looking at cool cars in the dead of winter has its own rewards. More entertaining, even, than trying to chase down a groundhog with a shovel.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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Travel

Happy 500th

This year is the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne and Windsor Castle — where the king and his third and favourite wife, Jane Seymour, are buried — will mark the anniversary with a special exhibit in April. It will include works by the king's painter, Hans Holbein the Younger; and other paintings, miniatures, prints and books from the Royal Collection and the archives of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle; see royalcollection.org.uk.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Romance done right

Paris is undoubtedly magical, but with a bit of planning, your getaway will be perfect

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Valentine's**Day**

It's no secret that Paris is one of the planet's most romantic spots. But while the city's magical ambience can work wonders, it never hurts to give romance a helping hand. Here are suggestions for planning your perfect getaway à deux:

Designer in Beaubourg

Right in the heart of the city, Beaubourg is the area around the famous Pompidou cultural centre. It's strolling distance from the major sights along the Rue de Rivoli; the romantic alleys of the Marais area with its boutiques and trendy, cosy cafés; the fabulous restaurants of the Étienne Marcel area; and the mainstream stores at Les Halles and the majestic department stores Printemps and Galeries Lafayette on the Grand Boulevards.

Where to stay: A Great Apartment in Paris, a unique studio apartment lovingly furnished with designer lamps, organic bed linen, handcrafted tiles, flatscreen TV and beautiful window box gives you a tasted of Parisian life. From about $125 per night; visit great-apartment-paris.com

Romantic dinner: Restaurant Georges, the utterly chic restaurant on the top floor of the Centre Pompidou, with fabulous views over the city from the terrace; centrepompidou.fr.

Where to propose: The sumptuous Philippe Starck-designed Cristal Rooms restaurant at the "hotel particulier" dedicated to prestigious crystalware manufacturers, Baccarat; baccarat.com.

Absolute classic Paris

For the ultimate wow factor, spend a weekend at the Hotel de Crillon at Place de la Concorde, the huge square flanked by four key sights — the Seine to the south, the Champs Élysées to the west, the romantic Jardin des Tuileries on its east side and the grand opera house a block north.

Go shopping in the high-fashion boutiques along rue St. Honoré and hip designer department store Colette. Stroll through the Tuileries to an exhibition at the Louvre and pause for a coffee in the formal gardens of the intimate Jardins du Palais Royal. Reward yourself with mouth-watering Ladurée macaroons from its shop on Place de la Madeleine; laduree.fr.

Where to stay: Treat your lover like royalty with a stay at the luxurious Hotel de Crillon, the most majestic hotel in the city, overlooking the breathtaking Place de la Concorde, with views over the city to the river and the Eiffel Tower. From about $1,220; crillon.com.

Romantic dinner: If you've splashed out for the Crillon, go the whole way and stay for the memorable dinner experience at Les Ambassadeurs, the hotel's two-Michelin-starred restaurant. Despite being so posh — they even give you a stool for your handbag — there's a friendly atmosphere to match the sophisticated but imaginative dishes, served in various playful ways. From about $475 per person.

Where to propose: Pont Alexandre III, one of the most ornate bridges over the Seine.

HOTEL DE CRILLON

CRISTAL ROOMS

Above left, a reflection of the Louis XV room at the Hotel de Crillon. Right, the Cristal Rooms are a perfect spot to propose.

Read more on page 23 ››

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New Hilton hotel brand announced

Hilton Hotels has announced the launch of a new extended-stay lodging brand called Home2 Suites by Hilton across several U.S. cities. Construction is expected to begin on the first Home2 Suites hotel in the next six to 12 months. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Skiing with tradition in the Alps

It's hard to resist a feeling of superhuman grandeur when you stand perched over an ocean of fresh snow watching the sun creep over the Dents du Midi — the Teeth of the South — a wolf's jaw of jagged peaks soaring more than 3,000 metres from the valley below.

PAUL AMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People ride a ski lift on a mountain in Chatel, France. Whether you're a manic mountain thrill seeker or a mild mannered slider who views skiing as an excuse to enjoy some spectacular scenery, it would be hard not to find what you're looking for in the Portes du Soleil.

Such a vision of natural splendour is enough to inspire you to turn your skis toward the black slope they call Le Corbeau — The Crow — and flash down its near-vertical mogul field in a display of downhill daring-do.

Or perhaps not. The alternative is a gentle incline crossing the invisible frontier from France into Switzerland, where the patrons of the Chalet Neuf cafe provide a hot spiced-wine welcome while you contemplate how next to avoid any death-defying antics on your winter holiday. Whether you're a manic mountain thrill seeker or a mild-mannered slider who views skiing as an excuse to enjoy fresh air, spectacular scenery and hearty Alpine cuisine, it would be hard not to find what you're looking for in the Portes du Soleil.

This vast winter sports playground rises above the south bank of Lake Geneva with 644 kilometres of interconnected ski slopes. The "gates of sunshine" ski area straddles two countries, 12 resorts and 266 pistes, ranging from gentle descents through forests of spruce and fir, to fearsome plunges like La Chavanette, one of the most challenging runs in the Alps.

Chatel sits in the centre of the Portes du Soleil, a village that collects epithets the way skiers collect bruises. "The charming village side of the Alps," "the most Swiss of French resorts," "where Swiss style meets the French touch," "a family-plus mountain resort," are some of the slogans adopted by this cosy collection of wooden chalets nestled in the slopes of the aptly named Abondance valley.

While some French ski centres, purpose-built in the 1960s and '70s, have all the concrete charm of the Parisian high-rise suburbs flung up at the same time, Chatel has fought to maintain its Alpine village ambience. Although it's no longer the remote scattering of mountain farms shown in photos predating the opening of the first ski-lift in 1947, the hotels, vacation homes and apartments that now cluster around the little stone church strive to replicate the traditional rural architecture.

You can tell Chatel is more than just a ski resort from the unmistakable whiff of manure that occasionally permeates that pure Alpine air. The village boasts 30 working dairy farms producing nine-kilogram wheels of primrose-coloured cheese based on a recipe first developed in the 14th century by monks who built the monastery a few miles down the twisting valley road in the village of Abondance.

The Chatel tourist board organizes regular farm visits to sample the cheese with fresh bread, sliced local sausage and crisp white wines like Marin and Crepy made by the shores of Lake Geneva, just 40 minutes drive away down the precipitous mountain road. Reinforcing Chatel's village atmosphere, little delis selling traditional farm products compete with ski-gear stores on the village's three main streets. A score of restaurants offer fondues and other hot cheese specialties.

Chatel has fought to maintain its alpine village ambience ... the hotels, vacation homes and apartments ... strive to replicate the traditional architecture.

There are two cinemas, a couple of pubs and a handful of boutiques, some offering clothes spun from local wool, traditional pottery or woodwork, but Chatel is not really the place to come for chic shopping or wild apres-ski nightlife.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New England Fly & Drive $449
+ taxes & fees $122
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to Boston and 7-day car rental to explore the New England coast at your own pace. Departs Apr 15/inf/aa.

Phoenix 5-Star $799
Fairmont Scottsdale + taxes & fees $250
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Holiday Inn Sunspree + taxes & fees $227
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INCLUDES 7-night Royal Caribbean cruise, onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from San Juan and visit Barbados, St Lucia, Antigua, St Maarten and St Croix (US Virgin Islands). Port charges included. Sails Sep 27.

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Celebrating Abe's 200th

Some of the biggest celebrations of Abe Lincoln's 200th birthday kick off in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 12. But you can also catch many Lincoln-related exhibits and events later this year and in other parts of the country. Details at lincolnindc.com and abrahamlincoln200.org. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal hosts major van Dongen retrospective

MONTREAL A major retrospective of the Dutch artist Kees van Dongen at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts brings together some 200 works, including paintings, drawings, prints and archival documents.

Van Dongen, a member of the group of artists known as the Fauves, played an influential role in early 20th-century art.

He was the only portraitist among the Fauves, who were known for their use of strong colours. His "caustic, urban, scandalous art is very different from the landscape Fauvism that is generally associated with the movement," the museum says.

The exhibition includes "arresting paintings of nudes and flirtatious women," works that reflect themes of exoticism, spectacle and orientalism, says the museum.

The show also includes portraits of celebrated personalities of the Roaring '20s.

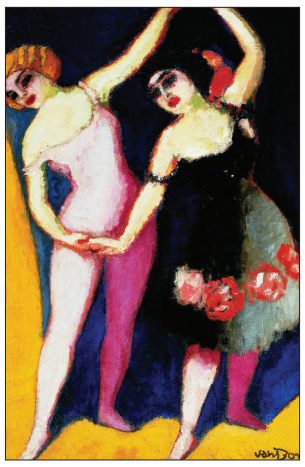
Van Dongen, born in 1877, participated in the 1905 Salon d'automne exhibition in Paris that established Fauvism as a new movement in art. He died in 1968.

"Van Dongen, Painting the Town Fauve" — organized by the Montreal museum and the Nouveau Musee National de Monaco — opened Jan. 22 and runs to April 19. Works have been loaned to the exhibition by various public and private collections.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- For more information, visit mmfa.qc.ca.



The Dancers Revel and Coco, by Kees van Dongen.

Ontario outings

QUAD CITY TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At Wye Marsh, you'll be able to view Friday's full moon while taking a snowshoe trip through the woods.

Full moon snowshoe
A full moon is expected on Friday, and Wye Marsh in Midland, Ont., is marking the event by hosting a Full Moon Snowshoe. Visitors will take part in a guided educational tour through the woods; admission is $8 or $13 if you need to rent snowshoes. Visit wyemarsh.com to complete the required pre-registration, which ends tomorrow.

Summer camping
If you adore camping, hiking or canoeing in Ontario's provincial parks, you may already know that it's wise to make campsite reservations as early as possible. Because the parks' booking system lets you make reservations up to five months in advance of your trip, you can now make firm plans for the July 1 weekend. Visit ontarioparks.com for more information, and to guarantee your stay.

Ignore winter
One surefire way to temporarily forget about winter is to spend a day at the Fallsview Indoor Waterpark. Located in Niagara Falls, Ont., the park has 16 waterslides — some of them six storeys high — a full-sized wave pool, adult-only Jacuzzis, a Planet Hollywood restaurant, an arcade and more. Visit fallsviewwaterpark.com for further details.

AMBER BELLAIRE/ FOR METRO CANADA

Pond hockey to be part of Winterlude

OTTAWA The Beaver Cup Pond Hockey tournament will be part of Ottawa's Winterlude festival this year for the first time.

About 20 men's hockey teams from Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick will play four-on-four on rinks at Dows Lake on the Rideau Canal from Feb. 13 to 15.

It's the third installment of the event, which was held at Smiths Falls, Ont., the last two years.

Spectators can take in the action during a skate on the canal, billed as the world's largest skating rink.

As well, the Jim Cuddy Band plays at the canal's Snowbowl stage on Feb. 13, and Roch Voisine performs there on Feb. 14.

The Rideau Canal Skateway runs 7.8 kilometres through the heart of Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- beavercuppondhockey.com
- winterlude.gc.ca

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Canada

Bhangra festival
From Feb. 12 to 21, the fifth annual City of Bhangra Festival will take place around Vancouver. Bhangra is a genre of music and dance originating in India. Visit vibc.org for more information. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foraging for dinner on B.C.'s Meares Island

TheTravelJunkie

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Gisele Martin, guide and owner of Tla-ook Cultural Adventures, points out some fiddleheads on a "grocery walk" of B.C.'s Meares Island.

There's more to do in Tofino, B.C., than catch waves, whale watch and chill in the hot springs.

Tla-ook Cultural Adventures offers a variety of tours, from black bear watching to wild salmon barbecues and sunset paddles to grocery walks on Meares Island.

Eager to find out about West Coast flora and fauna, I signed up for a trip to Meares Island. This four-hour excursion has tourists foraging for food and learning about edible roots, shoots and berries from a First Nations perspective.

Around these parts, the tides determine tourist activities. For this adventure, low tide is best, so before paddling through Clayoquot Sound in a traditional hand-carved canoe, my guide Gisele Martin and I had to wait a bit.

Once the tide was low enough, we headed out to Meares Island, home to Tofino's water source and a 10,000-year old forest. It's a rugged patch of coastal temporal rainforest that's been left relatively untouched, except for a protective boardwalk called the Big Tree Trail. This path of wooden planks weaves through the old growth forest of massive western red cedar trees.

On the web

- For more information on Tla-ook Cultural Adventures visit tlaook.com

Once on the island, visitors are introduced to a variety of plants traditionally used by the First Nations people. Licorice root saved European sailors from scurvy, while skunk cabbage's fragrant flower was helpful when cleaning and gutting fish.

Rooting through a patch of shrubbery, Gisele plucked a handful of fiddleheads. Eat these fronds raw and they can cause a vitamin C deficiency in your body, but fry them with a little butter and they're a perfect addition to any grilled cheese sandwich.

"The forest is a grocery store," she explained. "There's tons of food but you just have to know where to look."

Many tourists have a hard time recognizing the subtle differences between plants and, while some are suitable for eating, others are poisonous. "The Banana slug is one thing you definitely shouldn't eat," Gisele explained. These slimy creatures aren't the least bit tasty and will even cause your lips to go numb. They are, however, excellent weathermen. If you spot them in the open air, basking on tree leaves, you're sure to know that rain is on the way.

Word Travels

- Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series that follows the real-life adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN, with a repeat at 11:30 p.m.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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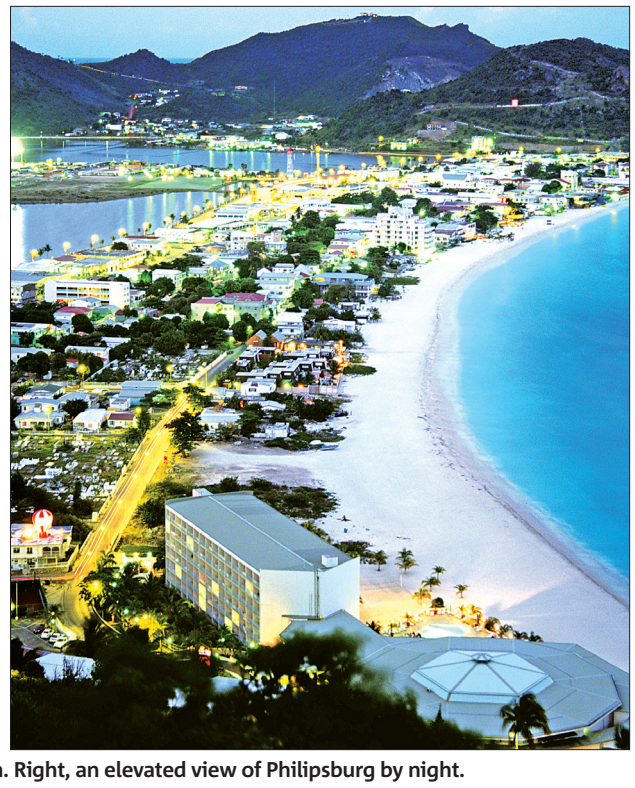
A paradise with plenty of surprises

On the island of St. Martin/St. Maarten, dual cultures are just the start of the quirks

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada

MARK S. WEXLER


DONALD NUSBAUM

Left, a jumbo jet flies over a vacationer on Maho Beach, St. Maarten. Right, an elevated view of Philipsburg by night.

"The Dutch side is known as the party half of the island. It's where most of the happy hours and all the casinos are. Drinks are cheaper, the vibe is rowdier and the nights go on longer."

The last thing you expect to see as you sit at the bar, looking out over the sea and slurping a cocktail, is a plane headed straight towards you.

Such narrow brushes with disaster are what makes the Sunset Beach Bar in Sint Maarten so much fun, however. It is right next to Maho Beach, which is arguably the scariest stretch of sand in the world.

Just behind the beach is a small road, and then comes the airport runway. The planes — including the giant Air France jumbo — can turn pebbles into bullets with their jet blasts and their wheels almost drag through the sand.

It is partly such quirks that make the tiny Caribbean island of St Martin/Sint Maarten so much fun. It's the world's smallest divided landmass — the southern half of the 87 square kilometre island belongs to the Netherlands Antilles, and the northern half is an overseas collectivity of France.

There are no noticeable borders, but they still use the US dollar or Antillean guilder on the Dutch side and the euro on the French. At the silliest extreme, there is one hotel (the Captain Oliver at Oyster Pond) that has its main building in one country and attached restaurant in another.

But for such a small place, the variety is sensational. The capital of the Dutch side, Philipsburg, is a major haunt for cruise ship passengers. The shopping is duty free, and thus the stores on Front and Back Streets usually have a steady trade from bargain hunters.

Read more on page 21 »

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MICHELE WESTMORLAND

L'Escargot, a restaurant in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, typifies the colourful, decorative buildings on the Dutch side.

Continued from page 20 »

Most fun is the Guavaberry shop on Front Street — it sells a whole host of locally made items, including the infamous Guavaberry liqueur.

Come carnival time at the beginning of May, however, Philipsburg is one big party zone. Those cruise ship passengers fancying some cheap electrical goods and t-shirts are in for a rude awakening. Hundreds of flamboyantly dressed locals pour down the streets to the sound of deafening calypso music.

The Dutch side is known as the party half of the island. It's where most of the happy hours and all the casinos are. Drinks are cheaper, the vibe is rowdier and the nights go on longer. But the French side can throw a party too — it just feels a bit more like St Tropez than a Caribbean take on Las Vegas.

Orient Beach is one of a few stunners on the French side, but people come as much for the beachfront bars as the white sand and clear water. The Waikiki is a classic example — it's the sort of place where millionaires will think nothing of taking all their friends to and dousing themselves in bottle after bottle of staggeringly expensive champagne. It's best to sit back, watch, and hope you're asked to join in.

The French side is unquestionably more upmarket than the Dutch. It's bigger, less developed and home to the swankiest joints. It's also the place to go for foodies. The village of Grand Case is essentially a giant luxury food hall. From the lolos (street stalls) to the most wallet-busting restaurants, it is nigh-on impossible to get a bad meal here. Huge levels of competition keep standards sky high, and it's possible to eat out here every night for a month without visiting the same place twice.

To work that food off, it's best to head to the interior. There are a few woodland hiking trails, and also Loterie Farm. This is home to the Flyzone.

Not for the faint-hearted, this is a series of precarious balancing acts and aerial slides between the trees. Using abseiling equipment, visitors teeter across dodgy rope bridges, shimmy like tightrope walkers on metal wires and wobble along clanging logs suspended way above the ground before zipping across the treeline.

It's enormous fun, but then again, what isn't on St Martin/ Sint Maarten? It's one island with two countries and hundreds of ways to keep yourself entertained — just watch out for those planes.

DAVID WHITLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

The Guavaberry Emporium in Philipsburg.

Saint Martin/Sint Maarten

Stay: The most luxurious accommodation on the island is La Samanna, lasamanna.com. This is something of a celebrity hang-out and rooms start at an eye-watering $995 US per night. Cheaper guesthouse accommodation is available on the Dutch side in joints such as Carl's Unique Inn, carlsinn.com, in Cole Bay. Rates start at $70 US per night.
Do: Flyzone is Loterie Farm, loteriefarm.net, while the place to watch the planes come in over a drink is the Sunset Beach Bar, sunsetbeachbar.com.
Info: st-maarten.com, st-martin.org DAVID WHITLEY/ FOR METRO CANADA

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Maple sugaring season in New Hampshire

New Hampshire is gearing up for the February-March maple-sugaring season. Search for accommodation packages (many maple-themed) at nhmapleproducers.com and visitnh.gov/best-time-to-visit/maple-sugaring.aspx. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. tourist spots offer discounts

Hoping the prospect of sales will woo cash-strapped travellers, U.S. tourist destinations are taking a page from the retail playbook, offering tourists deep discounts and freezing gate prices.

They include free nights at Walt Disney World in Florida, coupons worth $15 off at Pennsylvania's Hershey Park and admission to the Georgia Aquarium, the world's largest fish tank, all at last year's prices.

The markdowns are enough to make even the most frugal traveller think twice about staying home.

"Given so many people have lost their jobs and aren't getting raises and aren't getting bonuses, it did not seem appropriate to do a price increase this year," said Dave Santucci, spokesman for the aquarium in downtown Atlanta.

A ticket at the aquarium will cost the same this year as it did last — $27 US for adults. Visit once, and you get a "bounce pass" to return any time that year for $15. And the aquarium is brokering deals with surrounding attractions like the World of Coca-Cola to offer combination tickets at discount prices.

JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Given the current economic climate, the Georgia Aquarium has decided not to increase prices this year.

And it couldn't come at a better time.

The nation's tourism industry hasn't seen a year this bad since just after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, when hotel occupancy dropped 16 per cent over the prior year, said Jan Freitag, vice-president of Smith Travel Research, which follows the hotel industry. Hotel occupancy dropped 10 per cent from November 2007 to the same month in 2008, he said.

"It' not pretty right now, from the hotel perspective," he said. "Some analysts out there think it's going to get much worse."

At Walt Disney World near Orlando, Fla., visitors can save $400 US off the price of a seven-night stay between February and the end of June. The deal — being touted as "buy four nights, get three free" — can be booked through the end of March, said Rick Sylvain, spokesman for the resort.

He declined to give numbers on how many visitors signed up for the deal. Walt Disney World is advertised the discount more heavily than usual in hopes of drawing families during typically slow times at the attraction, Sylvain said.

Hershey Park, which runs a zoo and amusement park next to the headquarters for the iconic chocolate company, is offering one the steepest coupons in its 102-year history - $15 off the $51.95 price of admission, said spokeswoman Kathy Burrows.

Some attractions, like the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California, are offering free days once a month for local residents. Others, like Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., are teaming up with hotels and other attractions to offer discounts on package deals to tourists who travel to the retiree Mecca for a few days.

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HOTEL DE CRILLON

The view from a balcony at the Hotel de Crillon.

Continued from page 15 »

Intellectural on the Left Bank

An obvious choice here is a walk around the stunning gardens at Jardins de Luxembourg. Stop for a coffee and watch the entertainment, then walk all the way along the famous Boulevard St. Germain, taking in typically Parisian stores including luxury candle makers Dyptique. At the other end you'll find the city's beautiful botanical gardens, the Jardin des Plantes.

Where to stay: Right opposite the famous Left Bank university, Hotel de la Sorbonne has stylish, cosy rooms with hip designer furniture and sumptuous fabrics in bright or sultry colours — the perfect setting for seduction. Each room has a Mac with unlimited free Internet, so you can set the musical mood or browse for places to go, although you don't even need to leave the hotel for that — each floor hosts a different photo exhibition. From about $158, discounts online, hotelsorbonne.com.

Romantic dinner: Cosy up in the romantic, classic atmosphere of Closerie des Lilas, a classic Paris restaurant once frequented by the likes of Hemingway; closeriedeslilas.fr.

Where to propose: The secret gallery at the top of the cupola of the Pantheon.

Arty in Montmartre

The artists and musicians who live in Montmartre rarely leave this so-called village. No surprise when you consider what's on offer here. Meander through the alleyways and climb up to the Sacre Coeur church at the Butte de Monmartre and take in amazing views across the city's rooftops.

Paris views don't get much more romantic than this. If you're feeling racy, you can visit the Musée de l'Erotique or catch one of the erotic cabarets in the evening at Moulin Rouge or further away at the Crazy Horse — Dita Von Teese is guest starring this month.

The facade of the Hotel de Crillon is visible through the majestic fountains out front.

Where to stay: Hotel Amour is a hip establishment set up by trendy graffiti artist André, and each room has been customized by a different cool young artist. A charming bistro on the ground floor has an outside courtyard complete with billowing bamboos; hotelamour.com.

Romantic dinner: Make like a local and dine at hip Italian restaurant La Pizzetta. The food is delicious and seasonal, its sunny terrace a gem, and its 1960s Italian cinema inspired interior is very cool; lapizzetta.fr.

Place to propose: The pretty courtyard garden of the Musée de la Vie Romantique — a museum dedicated to the romantic era, rather than romance itself; vie-romantique.fr.

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Crazy over kimonos
An exhibit of kimonos considered to be artistic masterworks opens Feb. 8 at the Canton Museum of Art in Canton, Ohio. The exhibit, Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota, includes 40 oversized kimono featuring patterns inspired by nature. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Escaping winter ... underwater

A stiff winter wind is blowing at the Ogden Point Breakwater.

A churning, grey, moody-looking ocean is lapping up against huge stacked granite and concrete blocks that anchor the 800-metre breakwater marking the entrance to Victoria's Inner Harbour.

These are perfect conditions for a winter dive, an activity that seems to defy common sense but draws tourists to explore the rich undersea world on Canada's West Coast.

Topside — the word divers use to describe everything above water — it may be rough and stormy, but down below it's all splendour, light and full of life.

The clouds of plankton and algae that float through the water at other times of the year disappear as the water cools down slightly in winter, leaving divers with a better view of the undersea topography and wildlife, says Victoria dive shop manager Erin Bradley.

"The winter and summer water temperatures only vary about two to four degrees," he said. "It might be snowing or raining or blowing, but underwater we're still comfortable."

Dry suits worn underneath the traditional diving wet suits keep out the cold, Bradley said.

Vancouver Island is recognized as one of the world's top dive locations, said Bradley.

The Jacques Cousteau Society, named after the internationally recognized ocean explorer and environmentalist, ranked Vancouver Island and the surrounding Gulf Islands as second only to the Red Sea for its clarity and diversity of marine life, he said.

SCOTT STEVENSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

One breakwater resident is the wolf eel, a huge creature described as sinister-looking but a puppy dog at heart.

historical

• Shipwrecks up to 85 years old can be found in Vancouver Island waters and there are at least five artificial reefs, most created by the sinking of old military and commercial vessels.

Some of the West Coast's most stunning undersea sights are located near the breakwater, which contributes to the area's diving popularity, Bradley said. The breakwater, like many of Victoria's dive sites, is easily accessible by vehicle and the dive site is mere metres away.

"There's an amazing array of invertebrate life," Bradley said. "One of the biggest attractions is the giant Pacific octopus. We've got 10 or 15 here on the wall at any given time."

The octopuses can weigh up to 25 kilograms and their arms can be more than 10 metres long, said Bradley.

Another breakwater resident is the wolf eel, a huge creature he describes as sinister looking but a puppy dog at heart.

'"We've got 13 resident wolf eels, which are very popular,'" said Bradley. '"The wolf eels look like a sort of evil animal, which means they really look intimidating and mean, when really they are probably one of the most trainable fish in the ocean.'"

'"We go down and they actually come up and visit us and cuddle us and swim through our arms and legs, and are very social,'" he said. '"People visit the evil-looking, kind creature on the breakwater on a daily basis.'"

Topside adventures also draw divers to the Victoria area in the winter, said Dave Healy, who owns a dive shop in the city. Many travellers are intrigued by the opportunity to snowboard down a mountain one day and dive deep into the ocean the next, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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If Curtain Call wasn't your thing and you're excited about Valentine's Day, stay tuned for Matters of the Heart, our next series that focuses on falling in love, falling out of love, and everything in between. It begins next Monday.

Workology

Brock cutbacks

In order to ride out the economic downturn, all departments at Brock University will need to either cut costs or enhance revenues by about $7.5 million annually over the next four years, says Brock President Jack Lightstone. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Open offices not for everyone

Research indicates that while employers like them, employees don't — and shouldn't

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Open-plan offices may save the company money and foster better communication, but they are making workers sick, stressed and under-productive, Australian scientists have found.

Dr. Vinesh Oommen from the Queensland University of Technology's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation began studying the health effects of workplace setups as employers embraced "novel" concepts. Bosses are happy with the open areas, as staff can quickly move in and start work. They also save 20 per cent in construction costs, compared to a traditional, closed office.

"But no one is looking into the evidence to see if employees are satisfied with an open-plan work environment," Oommen said from his office in Brisbane, Australia. He and his team reviewed a global pool of research. What they found was "absolutely shocking," he said. The study, published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management, found the open-office environment leads to higher stress and lower productivity.

"We should develop facilities in the future based on what employees want, and it should not be based on building costs."
Dr. Vinesh Oommen

Employees also get sick more, as flu and cold bugs fly around the air unimpeded by walls. Listening to your neighbour's Baby's Got Back ringtone for 20 minutes while they're on lunch also ratchets up bad feelings, making for unhappy staff who are likely to drive up the turnover rate, the study found.

Open-plan offices lead to a high level of noise, loss of concentration, low work productivity, issues with privacy, lack of status, feelings of insecurity, job dissatisfaction, higher levels of stress, physical exhaustion and increased blood pressure levels. And, as anyone who watches the NBC show The Office knows, it makes workplace conflict almost inevitable.

In 90 per cent of the research Oommen's team looked at, staff who worked in open-plan offices saw them in a negative light.

The positive aspects of open-plan offices, such as better communication, collaboration and increased accommodation for different employees, are greatly outweighed by the downsides.

"Based on this evidence, we urge all managers across the world to reconsider the use of an open-plan work environment," Oomman concluded. "We should develop facilities in the future based on what employees want, and it should not be based on building costs."

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Costly delays in opening heart institute
According to documents obtained by the Edmonton Journal, ongoing delays in opening the Mazankowski Alberta Hearth Institute, located at the University of Alberta Hospital, may have caused a loss of reputation with donors, community leaders, and the university. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Law now leans toward workers

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com

MODERATION IS A VIRTUE ONLY IN THOSE WHO ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE.
–HENRY KISSINGER

Except in extraordinary cases, employees facing slashed salaries, abusive bosses, demotions or material changes to their jobs used to be without a legal remedy. The reality for most was to either leave, or lose, their job. But employers no longer get to act with legal impunity. Now, equipped with the knowledge that they can sue for constructive dismissal damages, employees subjected to workplace changes turn to the courts:

WORKPLACE ABUSE: Where an employee can show that he or she was treated with incivility, unfairness or disrespect or that management's conduct was designed to cause the employee to leave, he or she may be able to resign and sue for wrongful dismissal damages as if she had simply been dismissed. But not any form of perceived mistreatment will suffice: The conduct complained of must be such that no reasonable employee would be expected to tolerate it.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: Since 1997, when the Supreme Court decided that Royal Trust couldn't unilaterally amend David Farber's compensation, employees protesting material changes to their jobs have met with success in the courts. In that case, the Court confirmed that management could not simply make prominent compensation-based changes without the employee's consent and that by doing so without advanced notice, Royal Trust had actually dismissed Farber. Since then, demotions or changes in status, discrimination, reassigned work duties, transferring the place of work or virtually any other significant change including a temporary layoff has led to findings of constructive dismissal. Unfortunately, however, whether a change is deemed significant may be a function of the judge you happen to draw more than the impact of the actual change itself.

INVOLUNTARY RESIGNATIONS: Just because an employee left the workplace or uttered the words "I quit" doesn't automatically disqualify her from severance. The question the judge will ask is whether or not she voluntarily resigned or was she forced to leave. As well, employers who too quickly snatch up a resignation without first ensuring the employee actually intended to leave, risk being deemed to have fired the employee instead. Employees who consider leaving should be asked to take their time and confirm their intentions in writing.

Despite the broad spectrum of management behaviour that may be tantamount to dismissal, employees should not suddenly begin to line up outside my office doors, as the Supreme Court recently reminded us in the Evans case, employees have an obligation to work through changes to their jobs unless they are simply unable to persevere. There are other landmines: If an employer can simply terminate an employee by extending appropriate notice, then nothing should prevent it from being able to impose serious changes, provided the same amount of notice is given, employment contracts may anticipate substantial changes, the employee may have mistakenly condoned the changes, or the working conditions may be such that it would be unreasonable to expect him to leave.

Where an employee can show that he or she was treated with incivility, unfairness or disrespect he or she may be able to resign and sue for wrongful dismissal damages.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Manitoba launches international education strategy
The Manitoba government announced a new five-year international education strategy focusing on ways it can help provincial educational institutions pursue and succeed in international education initiatives. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sick on the job? Chances are your boss doesn't know

More than four out of 10 (45 per cent) professionals recently surveyed admitted they very frequently go to work when they feel sick. However, only 17 per cent of managers polled believe the practice is this common.

The two surveys were developed by OfficeTeam and conducted by an independent research firm and include responses from 522 workers 18 years of age or older employed in office environments, and 150 senior executives at the nation's 1,000 largest companies.

Workers were asked, "How frequently do you go into work when you're feeling sick?"

Their responses:

VERY FREQUENTLY: 45 PER CENT;
SOMEWHAT FREQUENTLY: 30 PER CENT;
SOMEWHAT INFREQUENTLY: 17 PER CENT;
NEVER: 8 PER CENT.

Executives were asked, "How often do you think employees come to work when they feel sick?" Their responses:

VERY FREQUENTLY: 17 PER CENT;
SOMEWHAT FREQUENTLY: 57 PER CENT;
SOMEWHAT INFREQUENTLY: 24 PER CENT;
NEVER: 1 PER CENT.

OfficeTeam notes that some managers may not realize the adverse effects of this practice on productivity, and offers them the following tips for ensuring staff do not come to work when ill:

- **COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS.** Let staff know that you prefer they stay home when they're sick to ensure a quicker recovery.
- **SET AN EXAMPLE.** Employees are more likely to stay home when they're sick if you do the same.
- **GIVE OPTIONS.** Allowing employees to work from home if they think they're coming down with a cold or the flu can help them stay productive without spreading a potential illness to others.
- **OFFER HELP.** Bring in temporary professionals to keep projects on track when employees are out sick for more than a day or two.

The survey of professionals is based on telephone interviews with 522 full- or part-time office workers from a starting sample of 2,000 adults aged 18 or older. The results were then weighted to provide projectable estimates. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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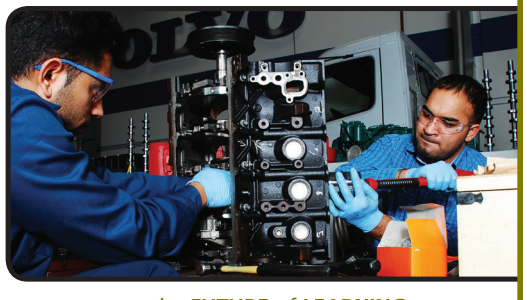

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Returning to the ER

George Clooney isn't the only ER alum putting on those scrubs again. Original cast member Anthony Edwards tells Usmagazine.com that Julianna Margulies will likely return as well as the show films its final season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment

Oscar date

Anne Hathaway, nominated for an Academy Award for Rachel Getting Married, wants to make the Oscars a family affair. "I'm taking my dad," she said earlier this week. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Nickelback leads Junos

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

JARRETT CHURCHILL/METRO TORONTO

Canada's Music Awards
JUNO **Awards**

Comedian Russell Peters, left, is back to host the 2009 Juno Awards. Meanwhile, City and Colour (Dallas Green), above, is scheduled to perform.

Nickelback is feeling the Juno love.

The Alberta rockers are on top with nominations for five Juno Awards, including the Juno fan choice award, single of the year for Gotta Be Somebody and album of the year for Dark Horse. The nominees for Canada's highest prize in music were announced at a press conference at the Royal York Hotel yesterday. The winners will be announced at the 2009 Juno Awards, set to take place on March 29 in Vancouver and broadcast live on CTV.

Pickering, Ont., singer-songwriter Sarah Slean and members of The Stills and Saint Alvia were on-hand to unveil the contenders, along with comedian and last year's host Russell Peters, who was cracking jokes about the gala he returns to host this year.

"It's Vancouver. What can I say?" he said. "That's the city it's going to be in and Vancouver's one of those cities where you can pretty much have a good time without the Juno Awards. You add Junos into that and the whores will be flying."

Performers at the show include Montreal pop-punks Simple Plan, Nickelback, City And Colour and Vancouver singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan.

Other Canadian artists were also tipped for multiple nominations. Montreal singer-songwriter Sam Roberts earned four nods, including artist of the year, rock album of the year for Love At The End Of The World, and two nominations for video of the year for Detroit '67 and Them Kids. Celine Dion has three nominations (Juno fan choice, single of the year for Taking Chances and music DVD of the year for Live In Las Vegas — A New Day) along with Burnaby, B.C., rockers Hedley (Juno fan choice, album of the year for Famous Last Words and songwriter of the year).

"This year's extensive list of nominees reflects the sensational cross-section of musical talent from across our country," said Melanie Berry, president of The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS). "Canadian music is dominated by the highest quality musical standards and is renowned for its variety ... Nothing is more uniting than music. Music is the universal language."

Nominations

- Notable local nominees include **Kardinal Offishall** (single of the year), **Serena Ryder** (artist of the year) and **Tokyo Police Club** (group of the year)
- To see the complete list of Juno nominees go to metronews.ca/music

Actresses Drew Barrymore and Scarlett Johansson star in the new romantic comedy He's Just Not That Into You.

The reality behind romantic comedy

Valentine's**Day**

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

It's the break of dawn and John Cusack, playing a fit teenage hunk wearing a trenchcoat and high tops, holds up a ghetto blaster, and blasts Peter Gabriel's In Your Eyes into the air and his crush's bedroom.

This scene from Cameron Crowe's Say Anything is so romantic it immediately melted hearts across the continent; but it's also just a touch unrealistic. Any woman who's been waiting since 1989 for her knight in shining armour to come along and pull this stunt, might be waiting a very long time.

But, some experts warn romantic comedies can create unrealistic expectations for relationships. Kateryna Spiwak, a Toronto-based dating coach, says flicks like this usually end up with the couple living "happily ever after" and suggest that no more work is required to maintain the relationship — that love conquers all."

There's also the suggestion that there's such thing as "the perfect man" — someone who will effortlessly meet all your needs simply by virtue of being with you, she said.

Referencing this Friday's movie release He's Just Not That Into You, based on bestselling self-help book of the same name, Spiwak said it's good for women (and men) to know some of the signs of a bad relationship, but it's also important to remember that every situation is different and not to follow anyone's "rules" too strictly. Just don't fall into the trap of thinking you're going to just find the "perfect" person and not have to work at it, she said.

Researchers at Heriot Watt University in Scotland had similar views on romantic comedies in a recent study that showed how "rom-coms" can spoil real-life relationships.

Echoing Spiwak's thoughts, Dr. Bjorne Holmes, director of research at the school's family and personal relationships lab, said people who watch romantic comedies are mistakenly led to believe that the "right" person will come along and know exactly what you want without having to ask.

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Sexy dress sends Voultsos home

RAF BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Montreal designer Margarita Voultsos was the second person sent home from Project Runway Canada last night with a dress that was too sexual and not sophisticated enough.

Her stretchy black dress with a high slit over one thigh failed to impress the judges and prompted host Iman to suggest the "ho trend" in fashion is over.

Last night's episode upped the ante as well-loved Canadian actress Elisha Cuthbert stepped in as guest judge.

Designers had to create an evening dress for Cuthbert that would be worthy of any red carpet.

Hamilton designer Jason Meyers, 31, did a turnabout with his stylish and regal black dress, winning the challenge after having been in the bottom two last week.

For street and clubwear designer Voultsos, 25, the challenge of designing a dress for Cuthbert was unlike anything she had ever attempted in her career.

"I've never designed anything for a celebrity before — I do streetwear. For me to do a glamorous evening gown is really pushing the limits," Voultsos said.

Despite getting her sent home, Voultsos feels doing the dress for Cuthbert has helped her grow as a designer and she has no regrets.

Margarita Voultsos, left, and a model wearing the dress that got her eliminated.

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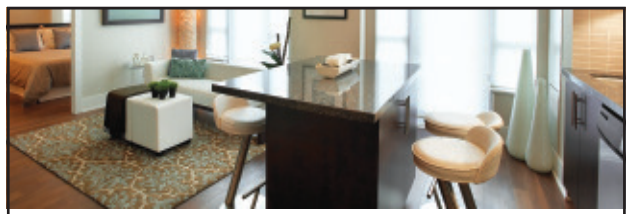

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First day back

Jennifer Hudson made her first foray back into public life with an emotional performance of the National Anthem at the Super Bowl Sunday — and now she has signed on to sing at the 40th NAACP Image Awards on Feb 12. **PEOPLE.COM**

In brief

PEOPLE Adele is in vogue, and soon to be in Vogue. The British singer competes in four categories at Sunday's Grammy Awards, including record of the year. Having reached a pinnacle of the music business at just age 20, the plus-sized songstress is moving on to the heights of fashion — with a Vogue spread to be shot this week by celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Days of our hairdressers' lives

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

I grew up in a neighbourhood where women like my mother had their hair tuned up monthly in beauty parlours that were often in the front rooms of someone's house, and have vivid memories of squirming on the couch reading women's magazines, inhaling fumes from the hair dye and perm chemicals and trying to puzzle out the often tense, loaded dialogue passing between the hairdressers and customers.

The staff and clientele at Vancouver's Chop Shop might sport tattoos and Mohawks, but the atmosphere is familiar enough, at least after viewing a couple of episodes of the eponymous reality TV series debuting tonight on Slice.

Chop Shop co-owner and de facto star of the series Daniel Hudon says that the producers began approaching him over two years ago with the show, and that he'd said no at first, before consenting to a pilot episode that he'd forgotten about until they came back with a series order from Slice.

"The type of people that we are," Hudon says, "I don't have cable and a lot of my staff don't have cable, so when you say 'reality TV show' it can be a dirty, filthy word, right? I just really wanted to make sure that we were representing what we believed in, on a business perspective especially."

Superficially, the show is modelled on "extreme workplace" shows like L.A. Ink or American Chopper, but in a larger sense it's part of an ongoing fascination TV viewers have with the relationships we're forced to have daily with people who aren't necessarily our family and friends, a trait shared by shows as different as The Office, Ugly Betty and Lost. Who hasn't, after all, felt as stranded at their job as they would on a desert island?

Daniel Hudon, co-owner of Chop Shop, was initially a rather hesitant subject for a reality TV show.

"I don't have cable and a lot of my staff don't have cable, so when you say 'reality TV show' it can be a dirty, filthy word, right?"
Daniel Hudon, Chop Shop co-owner

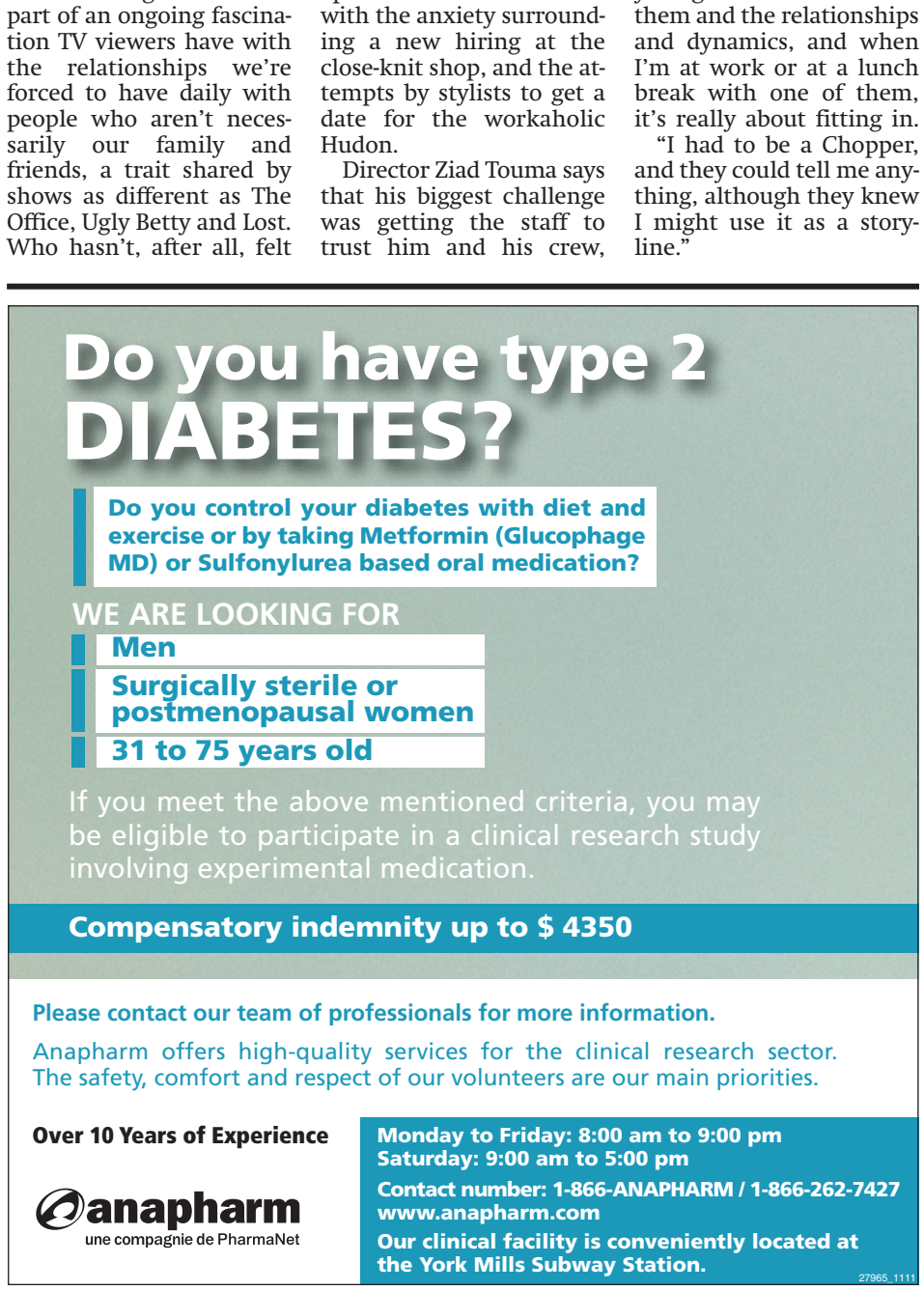
The dramas on Chop Shop are small but easy to grasp — the first two episodes of the show deal with the anxiety surrounding a new hiring at the close-knit shop, and the attempts by stylists to get a date for the workaholic Hudon.

Director Ziad Touma says that his biggest challenge was getting the staff to trust him and his crew, and to relax around the cameras and microphones.

"Just imagine the narrowness of this shop," Touma says, "with the camera and the boom operator, following hairdressers who are already working elbow to elbow, with mirrors all around you can always see the crew and me behind the camera, plus blow dryers and sinks and then clients."

"These are not actors, these are real hairdressers, and we were in their face for three or four days a week for six months, so you get to learn about them and the relationships and dynamics, and when I'm at work or at a lunch break with one of them, it's really about fitting in.

"I had to be a Chopper, and they could tell me anything, although they knew I might use it as a storyline."



Lunch with Anderson
A lucky person is going to have the opportunity to have lunch with CNN anchor Anderson Cooper as part of this year's Bailey House annual auction. Proceeds from the auction go to homeless New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

TV can be a bummer

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

"It could be argued that people with the predilection for later development of depression also happen to have a predilection for watching lots of TV."
Dr. Brian Primack, University of Pittsburgh

IT'S KIND OF OBVIOUS: You don't need to be a TV critic to know that TV can be a bummer, but a new medical study quoted in a Los Angeles Times science story yesterday suggests that the condition might actually be chronic.

Researchers at Harvard Medical School and the University of Pittsburgh studied over 4,000 adolescents and concluded that each additional daily hour of television increased the odds of becoming depressed by eight per cent, a result not matched by time spent with video games or the computer.

Now, there's a lot wrong with this sort of study that's plain even to the untrained eye, starting with the fact that the subjects were teenagers, who have a lot to be depressed about, especially if you ask them. The study's authors even admitted that the evidence linking TV to depression was, on the whole, largely circumstantial.

"It could be argued that people with the predilection for later development of depression also happen to have a predilection for watching lots of TV," said Dr. Brian Primack of the University of Pittsburgh's Centre for Research on Health Care.

The Times article also noted that the study was conducted over seven years, from 1995 to 2002, which just happens to be precisely when The Drew Carey Show was in production. Draw your own conclusions, but I'm just putting it out there.

In other glaringly obvious news, the U.K.'s Daily Mail tabloid reported that a new Big Brother-style reality show featuring 20 boys and girls between eight and 12 has attracted controversy, as the kids, who spent two weeks together isolated in six stone cottages in Cornwall without their parents, began bullying and physically threatening each other.

It didn't take long for the boys to descend into violence, with one boy attacking another with a garden rake, and a third pulling a knife.

The girls just as quickly began taunting and intimidating each other, the older ones picking on the younger, and an eight-year-old was filmed sobbing and pleading for her parents to take her home.

One has to wonder why Channel Four, the producer, is hiring childless people to produce shows with kids, as any parent could have predicted this inevitable outcome. A crowded bunny hutch and a bag of starving ermines would have produced much the same result.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Entertainment in brief

LEGAL Girls Gone Wild founder Joe Francis has been arrested in Los Angeles after he showed up five hours late for a court hearing in his tax-evasion case. When the adult-video entrepreneur finally appeared in court Monday afternoon, he told the judge he was suffering from the flu. Francis is accused of claiming more than $20 million in bogus business expenses on his corporate tax returns, including $3.8 million for a home in Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In brief

COURT CASE An appeals court rejected a bid Monday by Roman Polanski's lawyers to disqualify all Los Angeles Superior Court judges from considering a request to dismiss a rape case against the fugitive film director. A three-judge panel of the California 2nd District Court of Appeal also lifted a stay on all proceedings in the 31-year-old case, sending the case back to Superior Court Judge Peter Espinoza.

TV REUNION The reunion of Tori Spelling's Donna and Jennie Garth's Kelly on the CW's 90210 is an attention-grabber for fans of the original drama. Put the actresses in a Rolls-Royce convertible to film a scene in the heart of Beverly Hills and the paparazzi are thrilled as well. A dozen or more photographers gathered Monday to grab shots of the pair.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GlobalStyle

Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle and check out her blog at kenyastyle.com

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/4/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Expedition: Guyana		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Little Dorrit (N)		Human Edge (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News (N)
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Page Turner"		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Party Monsters: Cabo		Bruce Jenner: THS		News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest 2		*Lumumba* ★★★ (2000, Drame) Eriq Ebouaney, Alex Descas.				Évolution
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Roxanne* ★★★ (1987, Romance-Comedy) Steve Martin.				Nobel Peace Prize Concert		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		All Access Grammy Special		CSI: NY "Page Turner"		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Life "Re-Entry" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost "Jughead"		Lost "The Little Prince"		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Lost "Jughead"		Lost "The Little Prince"		(10:02) Law & Order		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Vicar of Dibley	Windsors-Royal		George Carlin: The Mark Twain Prize (N)			PBS Previews	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Privileged (HDTV)		90210 (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Orlando Magic. (HDTV) (Live)					KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Privileged
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Paul Saltzman.		CBC News: The National		Amazing Moments		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed (N)		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	Hockeycentral	World Combat	World Combat League		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Buffalo Sabres. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre	NHL on TSN	SportsCentre
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81 SC	NASCAR Pre.	Pass Time (N)	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	NASCAR Pre.
family	551	542	25 YTV	In The Real World (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach (DVS)		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	The Suite Life
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	America's Best Dance Crew		Brooke Knows	Brooke Knows	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMuch
	615	520	31 A&E	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Exterminators	Bounty Hunter
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Linea di Confine (Italian).				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Story Of "Johnny Cash"		All-Time Top 10		Revival
	575	583	38 CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard "Live Free"		Big Love "Vision Thing"		House
	620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Chop Shop (N)	Mr. Friday	Real Housewives of OC		Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Cover Story"		Cities of the Underworld		Museum Mysteries-World		NCIS "Cover Story"		Lost Inventions
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Fifth Element* ★★★ (1997, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis, Ian Holm.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*South Central* ★★★ (1992, Drama) Glenn Plummer.				Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "The Moth"		Star Trek: Voyager		Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef "Le Bernardin"		Restaurant
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	*The Buddy Holly Story* ★★★ (1978, Biography) Gary Busey, Don Stroud.				
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Dommages et intérêts		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Det.	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	*Smart People*	*Final Verdict* (2009, Mystery), Steve Byers			*Atonement* ★★★ (2007, Drama) James McAvoy.				(11:15) *21*
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:15) *Top of the Food Chain* ★★★ (1999, Comedy)				*Friday the 13th, Part 2* ★ (1981, Horror)			*Shot Through the Heart*	

critics' corner

The Exterminators
Some enterprising cable mogul should start up a network devoted to shows like this; call it "The Ewwww! Channel." As if Discovery's "Verminators" weren't enough, here comes another unscripted series about a pest-control company. If you enjoy watching people go to war with ants, snakes, bees, raccoons, roaches and other unwelcome creatures, knock yourself out. Just be warned that this is a family business, so even when they're not vanquishing vermin, Billy Bretherton and his relatives bring the family drama back at the office, a la "American Chopper." Oh, joy. 10:30 PM on A&E

Chop Shop
No, they don't dismantle cars for parts. This Chop Shop is a hair salon in downtown Vancouver's funky Granville Strip. This new unscripted series takes viewers inside this little salon where rock 'n' roll is more than just the background music; it's the attitude of the place. Hold on to your headbands; things could get a little crazy. 8 PM on SLC

Miley's new ride

Miley Cyrus says her mom's black Porsche — which she inherited around her 16th birthday — was driving her crazy. So she ditched it for a new set of wheels. "My dad surprised me last night with a black Prius," she said on her website Monday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Mayer's blog hints at engagement

RELATIONSHIPS John Mayer has announced plans to propose to girlfriend Jennifer Aniston, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Gravity singer — who briefly split from the Friends actress last year after she became annoyed with him speaking publicly about their relationship — took to his Twitter blog over the weekend to confirm his intentions. On Friday he wrote: "Visiting the Diamond Exchange in Tustin." He then followed the comment up on Saturday with: "Welding an engagement ring for my girlfriend."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kutcher comes to Phelps' defence

PEOPLE Ashton Kutcher is standing up for Michael Phelps after photos surfaced of the Olympian smoking marijuana, usmagazine.com reports.

"God forbid he hit a bong," Kutcher Twittered about the incident on Monday. "Go ask your 20-year-old kid what they did last weekend."

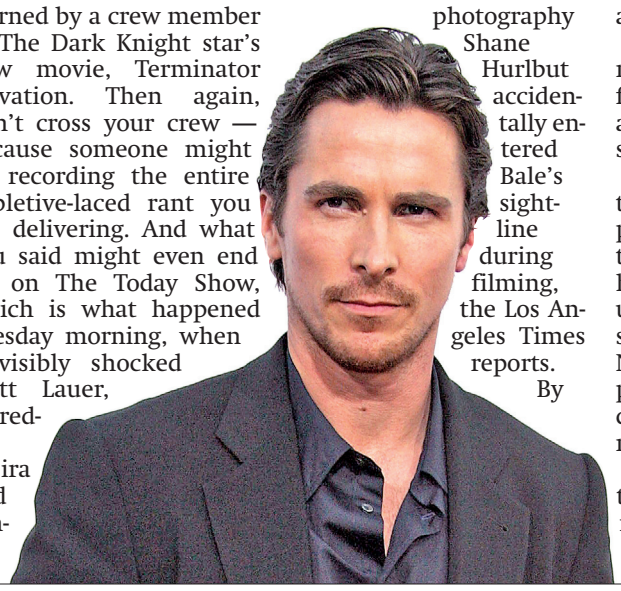
"I'm not saying it was a smart move. But he doesn't need to be publicly outed for it," Kutcher went on.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bale's verbal rampage

TEMPER Don't cross Christian Bale, people.com reports.

At least that's the lesson learned by a crew member of The Dark Knight star's new movie, Terminator Salvation. Then again, don't cross your crew — because someone might be recording the entire expletive-laced rant you are delivering. And what you said might even end up on The Today Show, which is what happened Tuesday morning, when a visibly shocked Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira and others discussed Bale's scorching on-the-set rant — which came about after Terminator Salvation director of photography Shane Hurlbut accidentally entered Bale's sightline during filming, the Los Angeles Times reports. By The Today Show's count, Bale, 35, dropped the F-bomb 36 times during his nearly four-minute verbal attack.



Contacted by People magazine on Monday, reps for Bale had no comment about the tape, which first surfaced on TMZ.com.

Bruce Franklin, an assistant director and associate producer on the Terminator film, called Bale's behaviour toward Hurlburt uncharacteristic for the star, whom Franklin told E! News was a "consummate professional." As for the incident, "It was just a moment and it passed."

To hear Bale's rant, visit this article online at metronews.ca/celebrity-buzz. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madonna nabs boytoy Jesus

RELATIONSHIPS Madonna has reportedly introduced her Brazilian model lover Jesus Luz to her children, femalefirst.co.uk is saying.

The singer was spotted dining with the 22-year-old hunk in New York's Macelleria Italian Steakhouse over the weekend along with two of her children — Lourdes, 12, and adopted David, three.

A source said: "The chemistry was fizzing between Madonna and Jesus and Lourdes seemed interested to get to know him."

After the meal, Madonna took Lourdes and David shopping, and Lourdes — the singer's daughter from a previous relationship with fitness trainer Carlos Leon — was seen trying on several designer items of clothing.

Madonna, 50, met Jesus in December when they were paired up for a photo to shoot for U.S. fashion magazine W.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Halle's boyfriend promises more kids

FAMILY She may be their only child for now, but Halle Berry and Gabriel Aubry's daughter, Nahla Ariela, will be getting a brother or sister — if the proud papa gets his way, people.com reports.

"She needs a sibling," Aubry told People magazine on Monday. "I think it's important.

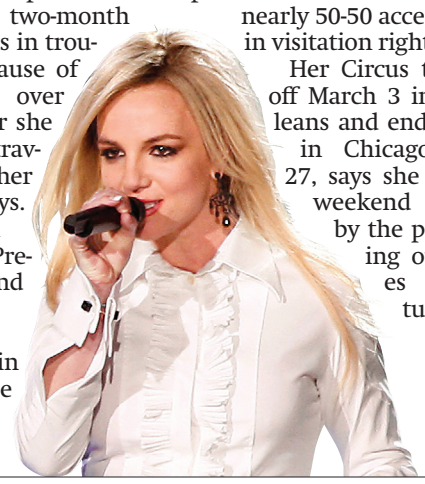
"I've always been around big families," adds Aubry, who comes from a family of eight children. And what does Berry, 42, think of his plans to expand the family? "She's okay with it," he says. "Absolutely."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brit's kids on tour

FAMILY It's off to the circus for Britney Spears' children, people.com reports.

The pop star took to her blog Monday to knock down a report that her upcoming two-month tour was in trouble because of a snag over whether she could travel with her two boys.



"Both Sean Preston and Jayden James will, in fact, be joining Britney throughout the duration of her tour," says Spears' blog.

Spears' ex, Kevin Federline, 30, has primary custody of the boys, ages three and two, but Spears has nearly 50-50 access to them in visitation rights.

Her Circus tour kicks off March 3 in New Orleans and ends April 28 in Chicago. Spears, 27, says she spent the weekend lounging by the pool checking out sketches of costumes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Amy moving to Jamaica

LIFESTYLE Amy Winehouse is moving to Jamaica, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Rehab singer — who has been staying in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia since December to overcome her drug problems — wants to avoid "bad influences" in London and record her long-awaited third album in Jamaica, the home of late reggae legend Bob Marley.

A source said: "Amy is having the time of her life in St. Lucia and doesn't want it to end. She's looking and feeling so much better and is worried about the bad influences waiting for her back in London. She's written a big chunk of her new album and has told bosses she wants to go to Jamaica to record it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

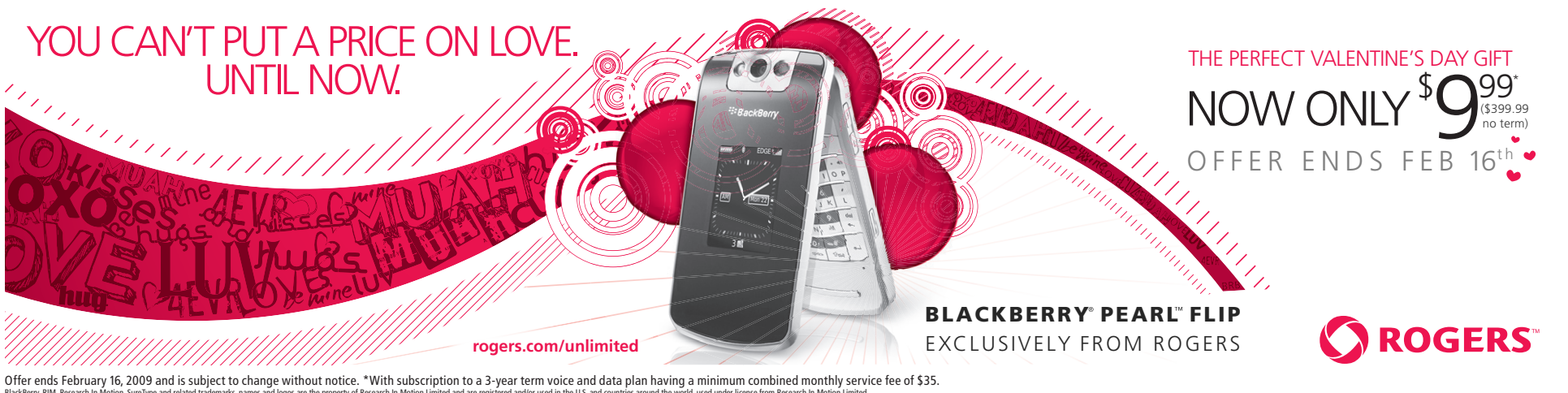
Jolie peeved over Pitt party?

RELATIONSHIPS Angelina Jolie "hit the roof" when partner Brad Pitt embarked on a series of wild nights out recently, femalefirst.co.uk alleges.

The website says that Pitt, 45, reportedly decided to spend an evening partying after the recent Berlin premiere of new movie The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, much to the irritation of The Changeling actress.

In Touch Weekly magazine reports Pitt's glass was "always half full" during the evening, and he was often heard drunkenly exclaiming: "Wow! The Germans make the best beer in the world! One more, please!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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KIMORA
LIFE IN THE FAB LANE
Starts Tonight 10pm

keeping up with the Kardashians
Starts Tonight 10:30pm

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Today
Variable
-11° / -20°

Thursday
Variable
-11° / -12°

Friday
Partly cloudy
-3° / -11°

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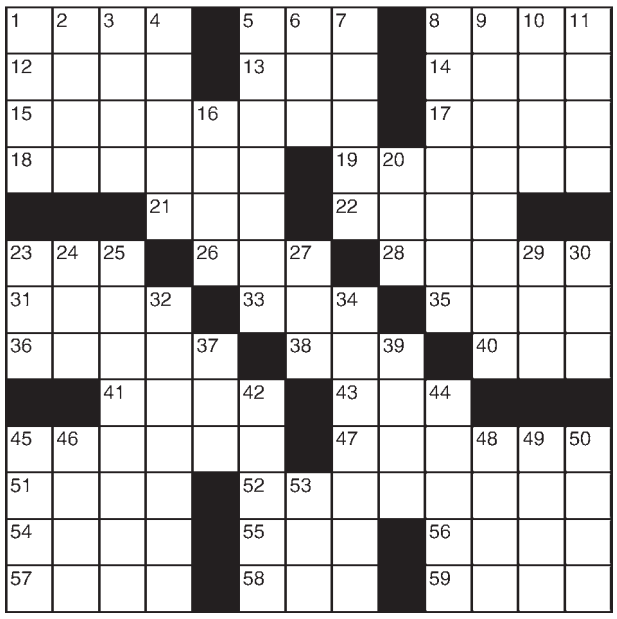
The Weather Network

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9		1		4		3	
1								8
		4		6		2		
	7	1		4		5	8	
	5			7			2	
	4	6		5		3	1	
		7		2		9		
9								5
	3		9		7		4	

Crossword across

1 Pronto, on a memo
5 Section of L.A.?
8 Fashion
12 — fide (in bad faith)
13 Descartes' conclusion
14 Out there someplace
15 Drilling site
17 Small salamanders
18 A big-screen Batman
19 Tenant
21 Mimic
22 Riga resident
23 Bachelor's last utterance
26 Doctrine
28 Velveeta maker
31 Pompom
33 Drunkard
35 Fairy tale baddie
36 Parlour furniture
38 Fella
40 Storm center
41 Vail gear
43 Greek consonants
45 Garment with something to say?
47 Realm
51 Extended period?
52 Illegal football plays
54 Urban pall
55 Barack : Michelle : Herbert : —
56 Bound
57 DIY buys
58 Wriggly one
59 Kenny Rogers song

Crossword down

1 Out of control
2 Secure
3 — Romeo
4 Trattoria offering
5 Cub's mama
6 Scull tool
7 Olfactory stimulus
8 Baton waver
9 In the wings
10 Social engagement
11 Gaelic
16 Arizona tribe
20 "A mouse!"
23 "— Impossible"
24 Pair with an air
25 Collateral branch
27 Unruly bunch
29 Saute
30 Links prop
32 Receipts in Britain
34 Melodic
37 Round Table address
39 Vagrants
42 Pilfered
44 Drinker's mishap
45 Agenda entry
46 Big rig
48 Concept
49 Peruse
50 Catch sight of
53 Adversary

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	3	6	4	7	5	1	9	8
4	1	5	8	6	9	7	3	2
7	8	9	3	1	2	4	5	6
6	5	3	9	2	1	8	4	7
1	2	4	7	8	3	9	6	5
8	9	7	6	5	4	2	1	3
5	4	8	1	3	7	6	2	9
3	7	1	2	9	6	5	8	4
9	6	2	5	4	8	3	7	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Sloppy Joes

INGREDIENTS:
1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef
1 onion, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, finely chopped
1 green pepper, seeded and finely chopped
14 oz (398 ml) can chopped tomatoes
1 tbsp (15 ml) chili sauce, or to taste
2 tsp (10 ml) Worcestershire sauce
2 tsp (10 ml) cider vinegar
Freshly ground black pepper
4 buns, split and toasted

COLESLAW:
1 large carrot, peeled and cut into matchsticks
5 1/3 cups white cabbage, finely shredded
1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) olive oil
1 tbsp (15 ml) cider vinegar

METHOD:
1. Put meat in large non-stick frying pan over moderate heat and cook 4–5 minutes. Break up meat with wooden spatula. When meat is no longer pink, add onion, celery and green pepper. Cook 5 minutes until vegetables are softened.
2. Add tomatoes, chili sauce to taste, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar and black pepper. Cook 15–20 minutes, stirring often, until flavours are blended.
3. Meanwhile, make coleslaw: Mix together carrot and cabbage in large bowl. Sprinkle with oil and vinegar and toss together.
4. Put bottoms of toasted buns onto four plates and spoon meat mixture on top. Pile on coleslaw and cover with tops of buns. Serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Think of the consequences before getting involved in an argument. A perplexed person contacts you about their feelings.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Heed a friend's distress and be ready to stand up for justice. Have cash handy for your generous impulses.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Your finances need changing due to your new circumstances. A handshake is as good as a contract if you trust somebody.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Bless those who keep you out of trouble. Discuss your philosophy and tactics with your allies.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Pay attention to the rules and all will be well. You'll acknowledge the assistance of a loyal companion.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Problems are resolved when you do things properly. Talking with authority figures will give you satisfaction.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Elegant words can be stirring or completely hilarious. A serious person needs to get a sense of humour. A helpful man will make a special offer.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Look for someone with a key to the knowledge that you seek. Think long and hard before refusing an invitation.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Maintain your dignity to teach somebody to show respect. Stay balanced when an icy cheerfulness masks a rivalry.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You have the strength of character to help someone. Excessive pride causes a buffoon to fall from grace.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Pleasure causes mayhem to erupt. Change patterns in your response to family members. You can reflect on someone's true nature.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A great project will come back to life after a hiatus. Unexpected events will keep you hopping.

Conditions apply. Ex: Toronto. Package prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. swg/wg=sunwing. Head office address: 1 Dundas St W Suite 200, Toronto, ON. Call for retail locations. ONT. REG #4671384
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Canada: ONE-WAY Tango fares from Toronto. Travel must be completed by October 31, 2009.

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$69	$79	$79	$109	$125	$149	$149	$169

USA: ONE-WAY Tango Plus fares from Toronto. Travel must be completed by October 31, 2009.

NEW YORK NEWARK	TAMPA	CHARLOTTE	DENVER	HOUSTON	SEATTLE	ATLANTA	LOS ANGELES
$99	$153	$185	$188	$220	$223	$224	$265

No fuel surcharge on flights within Canada and to and from the U.S. + Two free checked bags

Sun: ONE-WAY fares from Toronto, for travel as indicated below.

MEXICO CITY	NASSAU	MONTEGO BAY	BARBADOS	BERMUDA	CARACAS	ANTIGUA	HAVANA
FEB. 4, 2009 – MARCH 31, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MAY 31, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – APRIL 30, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MAY 31, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – OCT. 31, 2009
$139	$155	$185	$199	$202	$209	$240	$313

International: Fares are EACH WAY from Toronto and require ROUND-TRIP purchase. Departure dates as indicated below.

LONDON HEATHROW	FRANKFURT[1] MUNICH[1]	PARIS	ROME	SÃO PAULO	SEOUL	BEIJING/SHANGHAI HONG KONG	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
FEB. 4, 2009 – APRIL 1, 2009 SEPT. 25, 2009 – OCT. 31, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MAY 14, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MAY 14, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MARCH 31, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – JUNE 19, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MAY 24, 2009 SEPT. 15, 2009 – OCT. 31, 2009	FEB. 4, 2009 – MAY 24, 2009 SEPT. 4, 2009 – NOV. 30, 2009	APRIL 1, 2009 – JUNE 8, 2009
$157	$220	$233	$282	$304	$349	$419	$739

Fares displayed do not include fuel surcharge of up to $226 each way on International and Sun routes.

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A ticket purchased through Air Canada Reservations will cost $25 more per person, up to a maximum of $100 per booking (non-refundable, taxes additional). Hearing-impaired (TTY): 1-800-361-8071. Hotel, car rental and destination services are provided by leading industry travel parties through WWTMS. Tickets must be purchased by February 12, 2009. Fares displayed do not include insurance and NAV CANADA surcharges, taxes, fees, and other charges. Tickets are 100% non-refundable. Fares valid at time of printing and apply to new bookings only. Seats are limited and subject to availability. Day-of-week, time-of-day restrictions may apply. Fares may vary depending on date of departure and return. Minimum/maximum stay and other conditions may apply. Unless otherwise specified, flights may be operated by Air Canada, Air Canada Jazz™, Star Alliance™ member United Airlines or United Express carriers (SkyWest Airlines, Chautauqua Airlines, Shuttle America, Trans States Airlines, GoJet Airlines or Mesa Airlines). **Canadian destinations:** Fares already include the discount. Such discount level is calculated based on standing Tango fares but excludes any special or already discounted Tango fares. Fares indicated are one way. Travel must be completed by October 31, 2009. 5-day advance purchase applies. **U.S. destinations:** Fares already include the discount. Such discount level is calculated based on standing Tango Plus fares but excludes any special or already discounted Tango Plus fares. Fares indicated are one way. Travel must be completed by October 31, 2009. 14-day advance purchase applies. **Sun destinations:** Fares already include the discount. Such discount level is calculated based on standing Leisure fares but excludes any special or already discounted Leisure fares. Fares indicated are one way. Travel must occur within the dates indicated above. Fares are subject to government approval. Purchase in advance of travel may apply. Fuel surcharges vary depending on itinerary. **International destinations:** Fares already include the discount. Such discount level is calculated based on standing Leisure fares but excludes any special or already discounted Leisure fares. Fares indicated are each way and must be purchased on a round-trip basis. Last departure dates as indicated above. Fares are subject to government approval. Purchase in advance of travel may apply. Fuel surcharges vary depending on itinerary. **Buenos Aires and Santiago:** Travel must be completed by June 15, 2009. **The 25-Day 250,000 Mile Giveaway Contest:** NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. The 25-Day 250,000 Mile Giveaway Contest begins on February 1, 2009, at 00:01 EST and closes on February 25, 2009, at 23:59 EST (the "Contest Period"). The contest is only open to Canadian residents of the age of majority in their province of residence who are Aeroplan® members and who, during the Contest Period, fly on any scheduled flight operated by Air Canada, Air Canada Jazz, Air Creebec, Air Georgian Limited (doing business as Air Alliance), Central Mountain Air and Exploits Valley Air Services Ltd. on a purchased ticket or a ticket obtained from the redemption of Aeroplan Miles. A total of twenty-five (25) prizes to be won, each consisting of 250,000 Aeroplan Miles. Chances of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Aeroplan Miles have no cash value but are redeemable under the Aeroplan Program for flights and other rewards. Winners will be required to correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question. For complete contest rules and regulations, visit aircanada.com. ™Air Canada Jazz is a trademark of Air Canada. ®Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Aeroplan Canada Inc. [1]In cooperation with Star Alliance™ member Lufthansa.

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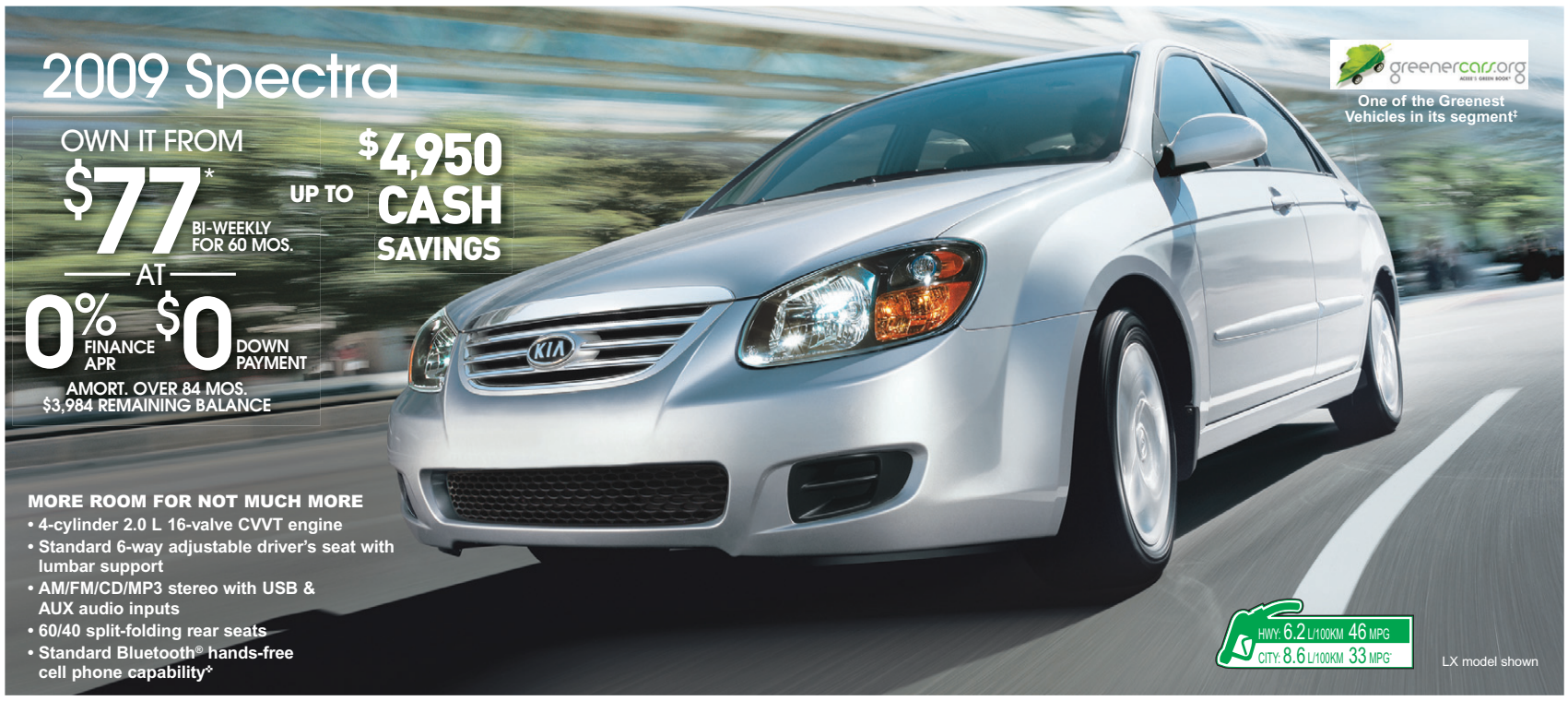

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LX model shown

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CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG^

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NHTSA - Frontal impacts††

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HWY: 7.5 L/100KM 38 MPG
CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG^

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